



竜騎士士

星刻の

瑞智士記

Shiki MIZUCHI

ill. 鯖コハダ

Ⅲ

【著者】



瑞智士記

みずち・しき

F1、クラブミュージック、ゴシック様式……等々、ヨーロッパの文化が大好き。でも生まれ変われるとしたら、また日本人が良いです。だってラノベが原文で読めるから!

富士見ヤングミステリー大賞出身作家。関西在住。『リビンググデッド・ファスナー・ロック』(ガガガ文庫)、『あかね色シンフォニア』(一迅社文庫)などの作品がある。

【イラストレーター】

メ鯖コハダ

しめさば・こはだ

インドア派のイラストレーター、メ鯖コハダです。好きなものはゲーム、漫画、可愛い女の子。将来の夢は出世魚になること。

HP「ぐずぐず帝国」

<http://kohadax007.blog69.fc2.com/>

カバーイラスト/メ鯖コハダ 装丁/伸童舎



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Chapter 1 - The Month of Gemini's Selective Training Camp

Part 1

An eye is staring at Eco in the dark.

Its blood red pupils are blazing like a burning torch.

One, two, three..... the number of eyes are increasing.

"Don't Don't look at me!"

Eco ran wildly as if to escape the ominous sight.

She was wandering in the dark without any direction.

But regardless of how far Eco ran, she couldn't escape those eyes.

The blood red eyes were like moons hanging up high in the sky, staring at Eco.

"H-Help....."

Eco who usually didn't show sign of weakness shouted out loud for help.

Because her overriding fear has long exceeded her self-esteem limits.

"Ash...Please help me!"

Even when she had shouted a name that she rarely mentioned, there was no response.

"Urk.....!"

Eco suddenly fell to the ground and hit her face hard. There seems to be something wrapped up at her right ankle and that's the culprit that tripped her.

"W-What is this.....?"

Eco wanted to quickly stand back up, but this time, even her left ankle was caught.

"No..... Don't!"

Even when Eco was struggling to cling to the ground to avoid being pulled away, her effort was in vain.

Her fingers can't cling to the dark slippery surface and the feeling is like the skin of a soft animal.

In a few moments, Eco's hands had also been entangled and she lost their freedom.

In the next second, she was easily raised in mid-air.

This frightening feeling, Eco had experienced it before.

"This is a..... Necromancia?"

Soon, the object with nine eyes appeared in front of Eco. Its eyes became the only light source, dimly lighting up its surrounding.

The initially black shadow had finally revealed its true-self.

It was a shocking space cover with a dense creepy purple earthworm.

But those creepy objects are no ordinary earthworms. Each of them is a tentacle which is thicker than Eco's arm.

Those countless tentacles are facing Eco.

"Eek....."

Eco kept on struggling. If this continues, her body will be the sacrifice for those tentacles.

However, the more struggle, the more firmly the tentacles gripped her hands. Not only that, the rest of the tentacles had launched series of attacks by tearing Eco's clothes.

"Stop...!"

Those frightening tentacles were squirming on Eco's naked skin.

Such as her chest, tummy, and inner thighs.....

The frightened Eco was having goose bumps.

"S-Stop- how dare you look down on me!"

Even though when she shouted with all her might, those tentacles attack became more intensified.

"I've had enough... this is.... too cruel...."

In the end, Eco who was covered in rags hanged in mid-air.

She felt like a livestock who was going to be slaughtered.

"Boo...Hoo..."

The humiliation Eco received made her furious, almost as if her blood is boiling. However, the tentacles were not even bothered by her and continued to wrap her body.

"Why..... didn't you come and save me?"

Ash face emerged in Eco's mind

Why did he sit back and watch his master experience such misery and yet refuse to rescue her?

No, in fact, Eco had long been aware that Ash is her master, and she is the one that is being reared.

But, because of her self-esteem, she is unwilling to admit that Ash is her master. Also, she in turn treated Ash as her pet dog.

Is this karma^[1]? If this is the case, such fate can only be blamed on herself.

"I'm sorry I'm sorry!"

Eco is in tears. Unfortunately it was too late. Even if she shouted with all her might, Ash would not show up.

Eco was aware of that and she shut her eyes.

No matter what kind of punishment God bestowed, she intended to accept it with her heart.

The tentacles swarm on her body and gradually have her covered-

Right at this moment, a low sound that is originated from the ground can be heard all over.

'This time, let's us have our stuff settled for once and for all- 'Daughter of Avalon'<-- This is not to be changed. -->

Part 2

"Hey..... wake up. Hurry up....."

Ash's shoulders were vigorously shaken which cause him to wake up from his sleep.

"Hmm..... Eco?"

While rubbing his sleepy eyes, Ash looked around. The room is dark. The sun rays that's managed to pass through the curtains silt is still very weak. It will be some time before the morning bell rings.

Ash was rather surprised for such rare thing to happen.

Eco had actually woken up early and wake Ash up. It is a rare sight for Eco who is a sleepy head^[2] by nature and he didn't even feel her usual aggressiveness.

"What's wrong with you?"

Ash jumped up from his bed and look at Eco unusual appearance. His sleepiness was suddenly swept away.

"That....."

Eco shows some uneasiness in her expression. For Eco who is always haughty, it is hard to think that she can come out with such expression. Even her pair of stubs that signify a young dragon also looked pale.

In addition, Ash was also very surprised that Eco put on her clothing this morning. Because in the past, Eco always woke up naked, without even one exception.

Ash was surprised to find that there is a hint of soap fragrance from Eco's body. It seems that she had taken her bath when Ash is sleeping.

"What's the matter?"

"On the bed..... that....."

Eco flushed while looking at the beds. "What's wrong with the bed?"

Ash crawl out from the futon on the floor, and move towards the bed.

Eco with her embarrassed looks, look downwards and blush. By look at her face, Ash finally understood why. He remembered his conversation in the past with Eco.

- "Anyway... I have not seen you secrete a Bright Dragon Crystal."

- "How can I casually expose those shameful things in front of others!"

- "Bright Dragon Crystals are formed when excess magic crystallizes(?) Even when seen, I think it is no big deal....!!! "

- "Although I do not deny that I inevitably will run into the kind of really intolerable situation. At least carelessly become incontinence..."

"Ahh... Now I understand. Eco you have finally incontinence, is it not?"

After Ash cast her a snappish smile, Eco's shoulders are shaking.

"I-I, it is not my intentional to do so..... There is always times when things happen without our consciousness!"

"It is alright, don't you worry about it. Anyway, for us humans, it's no big deal."

"Really?"

"Of course. I even wanted to carry it as a good luck charm!"

"Wha-What did you say?"

"Hey, what are you fussing about? In fact, there are also of many students who take it as an amulet!"

"I-I can't believe it..... Also, how do they carry it?"

"You just have to put it in your pocket or inside the bag!"

"H-How is it possible.....? Are you kidding me? Those liquid....."

"Liquid? You are the one who is joking. It is always solid!"



After hearing, Eco clenched her teeth.

"What do you think I had come out with!!! How could it be solid!!!"

Ash crossed his arms and think. He had never heard of a liquid Bright Dragon Crystal. Even though he had become more and more curious about what is happening, but priority is to calm down Eco's anger.

Ash took a deep breath to calm down his heart. What he needed right now is to speak with her.

"Listen to me carefully. There exist many differences between humans and dragons cognitive. Perhaps to dragons, it is indeed a very shameful thing, but for us humans, that it but a small matter. "

"Err..."

Even though Eco is still hiding something, but perhaps she is moved b Ash, her temper finally calm down.

"So please let me have a look."

Ash stretched out his hand towards the bed, but Eco quickly blocked.

"I-I really can't..... it is too shameful!"

Seeing Eco blushing and her humbly pleading looks, Ash's heart starts to race.

"Don't worry, Eco. You are my pal! Regardless of what substance you had secreted, I will never abandon you and will never laugh at you. I will accept you as who you are."

"..... Really?"

Eco's eyes are wet as if she was deeply moved and she finally move aside.

"Alright..... I believe in you."

"Then I'll make my move."

With mixed feelings, Ash flipped over the blanket.

".....?"

However- the moment he saw the sheets, Ash was shocked.

There was a huge world map on the middle of the bed sheet. When Ash is still in his village, he had helped taken care of his younger sister. This sight made him felt nostalgic.

"You..... After this long argument, it is you who wet the bed!"

"If not so, what were you originally thinking about!"

Eco flushed while shaking her pair of fists.

"Err, I originally thought it was theBright Dragon Crystal."

"Don't you know it is many times more shameful to come out with the Bright Dragon Crystal!"

"Is that so- Urgh!"

With Eco iron fist bursting, Ash was knocking against the wall in one hit. If he wants to fix the gap between humans and dragons, it seems that he needed to communicate with her more.

Part 3

Early in the morning, there were several male students who gathered at the laundry drying area. And beside it was the water storage, clothes could be washed there.

Fortunately, today's sky was clear, which made it a suitable day for doing the laundry. Ash moved towards the water storage and filled the laundry tub with water. He wanted to clean the sheets that Eco wet quickly, before he ran into any acquaintances..... Just when Ash was secretly thinking-

"Yo, Ash!"

Someone suddenly slapped his back, which caused him to choke and cough several times. When he looked back, it turned out to be his good for nothing friend Raymond Kirkland. Like Ash he was also carrying a basket full of dirty clothes.

"Why? Since you looked kinda glum, you must have been quarrelling with Eco is it not?"

"Nah....."

Ash tried to hide the sheets quietly, but they were still seen by Raymond's sharp-eyes.

"Woah!..... You still wet your bed even at this age!"

Once he found the world map on the sheets, Raymond could not help but laugh. The other students who also heard that, turned towards Ash.

"N-No..... it is not me who wet my bed!"

"Since it is not you Is it Eco?"

Ash whispered in Raymond's ear over his shoulder.

"I beg you not to tell anyone. Eco seems to have received a big blow..... she is without her spirit this whole morning."

"Really? There are also times when Eco is feeling frustrated. That is really unexpected."

"It is because she has a high self-esteem..... I think she can't forgive herself for bedwetting."

"Don't you look at her that way. She is just only a two and a half month old young dragon. It is normal for her to wet the bed!"

"What you said also seems logical to me! Her looks made me forgot about it."

Ash and Raymond were chatting while washing their clothes. After Ash put in some detergent, he began to scrub the stains on the fabric.

"Speaking of laundry, are you also responsible for cleaning Eco's clothes and underwear?"

"Who will wash it if I don't?"

Ash snappily replied. In fact, Ash is responsible for cleaning all Eco's clothing.

"Eco's underwear..... If it is possible I'll help her wash them."

"Do you think there is someone foolish enough to pass their room keys to a thief in this world?"

Ash remains silent after speaking this sentence and concentrates on washing his clothes. If he continues to go on chatting, he will be too late to catch up with this morning scheduled assembly.

Raymond was also concentrating on washing his clothes in the beginning, but Raymond is not a person who can quiet down. In just a moment, he could not help but bring up a topic.

"Do you know what happened to Jessica Valentine? Didn't she have a crush on you? There is some trouble in the SKFC because of her resignation!"

"Please don't even mention that topic I had a stomach ache by just thinking about it."

Recently, in Ansarivan, St Valeria's church had just been occupied. What Raymond had said made him recall this incident.

The person who rescued Jessica who unfortunately became a hostage in this incident is none the less Ash. Ash secret as the legendary hero- Silver Knight, was also known by Jessica.

As results, Jessica who is the SKFC- Silver Knight Fan Club's president was promoted to become a member of the student council. The reason why Jessica was selected is to prevent the Silver Knight's secret from being spread among the SKFC's members.

All this arrangements had been made by the student council's president, Rebecca.

It is certainly a good thing for Jessica to agree to keep Ash's secret. But since she joined the Student Council, she is still eyeing Ash's sperm which gave him a headache.

"But as long as you nod, immediately there will be a girlfriend, no? I never thought that you would actually overtake me by becoming the first....."

Raymond clenched his teeth and showed signs of not backing down.

"It can't be..... in my opinion, Jessica doesn't really like me. I feel that she wants to bear my child more. It is hard to feel happy being liked by girls this way."

"You sure? When she was the SKFC's president you may be right. But for now, I think it is no longer the same."

Raymond's objection puzzled Ash.

"What do you mean?"

"It means that- she now really loves you! I guess that it is because you save the beauty as a hero. Even if when she really loves you, can you still not accept it?"

"Err I have never liked Jessica. Since I don't like her, and yet if I'm going to date her, I don't feel that doing this is right."

"Otherwise, who do you really like?"

Raymond revealed his unusual serious expression and stare at Ash. It seems that he seriously wanted to know the answer.

"Me? About that..... I am not really sure myself."

Although Ash dully answered, in that moment, the memory of his first kiss crossed his mind.

His unexpected kiss with Eco. Her tender lips and her warm tongue..... just by recalling made his heart race. This is what Ash cannot deny.

But that was just an accident. That time, Eco had just eaten an Ansal sweet, and she was drunk and confused. She must have had not remember her actions.

"Anything wrong? Why are you blushing?"

Raymond curiously asked.

"No, nothing!"

Ash quickly shook his head and began to wash his clothes seriously.

Part 4

On the way back to the dormitory after having finished washing the clothes, Raymond unexpectedly asked a question.

"Speaking of the month of Gemini, we have to talk about the Selective Training Camp. The names for those who are able to participate are going to be announced soon, right?"

"Ahh, I heard that it is likely to be announced at today's assembly."

Raymond was surprised.

"What, even you don't know about it? I thought the student council's members had already received a notice regarding it!"

"The participant list is treated as confidential. Even for us student council members, it seems that only Rebecca has received the name list."

"Is it.....? Well, anyway, this has nothing to do with us."

Ash could only smile after hearing what Raymond said.

The Selective Training Camp – was actually an annual intensive training camp organized by the Ansarivan Dragon Riding Academy every year during the month of Gemini.

But, only fifty students who excelled in their results were eligible to participate. Actual Combat, written answers, attitudes and etc..... The candidates had to excel in all aspects, in order to be selected.

It was considered a very honourable thing to be selected at the Ansarivan Dragon Riding Academy.

Though Ash looked forward to the camp, but..... Even when now he was a member of the student council, he still could not change his image as the 'Number One Problem Child In The Academy'.

Raymond was right, Ash simply did not expect that they had a chance to be favoured.

Part 5

The school's students were assembled in the hall for the first period in the morning.

The school had also announced the change of seasonal uniforms on the same day as the arrival of the month of Gemini. Raymond and the rest were delightfully surprised by being able to see girls in their thin clothes. But for Ash, it was the beginning of a worrisome period.

Ash's left hand was imprinted with the dragons contract - Seikoku.

Generally, the size of the Seikoku would not be any larger than the size of a palm. But, somehow Ash's Seikoku alone was far larger than the normal ones.

The large area had his whole left arm covered. Ash had decided from the bottom of his heart to hate that shocking pattern and had never liked to expose it to others.

Actually, in the past, Ash was often ridiculed because of this feature. Ash who could no longer bear the others, finally decided to cover his left hand's Seikoku with bandages.

The problem was, once it changed to the short-sleeved summer uniform, another problem would be born from it. The bandages originally served the purpose of covering the Seikoku to prevent the others from being disgusted. But, once it was summer, those exposed bandages instead had been attracting attention. That was why the reason Ash hated seasonal changes..... was understandable.

Soon- The Chancellor made his appearance in front of the podium. Immediately, the hall had become silent.

"Surely you must of been looking forward to it for a long time, my students. I'll immediately announce the list of participants eligible for the Selective Training Camp."

Ash personally felt there was a little nervousness in the air which was different from the usual school assemblies. For those who were like Ash that "will never be selected" naturally they were not particularly tense. However, for those students who harboured a slight hope, their palms were sweating with nervousness.

The chancellor, who was always friendly and cheerful, had put on a priest like serious expression.

"For those who are named, please answer loudly and come forward."

The chancellor moved his eyes downward to look at the name list.

"Advance course third grade, Rebecca Randall-san."

"Hai!" [3]

Rebecca coolly left the group of students from the highest grade and moved forward. The red hair looked as if was blazing more than usual.

The chancellor read out the names of those selected one by one. The students from the higher grades consisted of most of the students. There

were more than thirty people who were from the third and second grade of the advance course.

"Next is the advance class first year, Silvia Lautreamont fourth Princess-sama."

"Hai!"

After she answered with an exceptionally brave voice, Silvia left the first grade group to stand on the podium in front. Her bright blond hair looked like a bright aura that only gods had.

"Hey, what are you mesmerizing about? Are you in love with her?"

Raymond casually whispered in Ash's ear.

"H-How could I be! She is a Princess!"

Ash quickly refuted. His cheeks were red hot.

"Haha, of course I was kidding. Anyway, she is a flower on a high ridge."

Raymond who laughed whole heartedly suddenly became serious.

"That being said, the only boy Princess-sama trusted is you."

"T-That is because we help each other in the student council? "

"Maybe you are the one who thinks so?"

After Raymond gave an evil laugh, their attention was back to the podium

The chancellor continue naming.

"Advanced class first grade, Maximillian Russell-san."

"Advanced class first grade, Jessica Valentine-san."

As the treasurer of the student council and at the same time also a friend of Ash, Max was chosen. Although it was a surprise that Jessica was also chosen, but Ash remembered, the comment that Rebecca gave her was "She is able to overcome any difficulty if she has the heart to."

"- Next is the Basic class."

After a break, the chancellor flipped the name list over. By doing this, it was confirmed that Ash was not selected. Although he hadn't held any

expectations at the start, but there was inevitably some regret. By having such feeling, Ash himself thought that was very extraordinary.

Because as his past self, he would not even be bothered.

"This year, there is only one student from the basic class selected. Third grade Lukka Sarlinen."

A foreign name came out from the chancellor's mouth.

But the hall was silent. Lukka Sarlinen did not respond for any reason. Soon, the students began to mutter among themselves.

Raymond, who was no exception, started to talk to Ash.

"It's hard to imagine that serious girl is absent....."

"Do you know her?"

Raymond looked at Ash in astonishment.

"You are the weird one for not knowing her! Lukka Sarlinen is a celebrity only second to 'Scarlet Empress' and 'Ice Blue Princess'!"

The former referred to Rebecca and the latter was Silvia. Since she was below these two, it meant that she was really famous.

"Is it?..... Is she such an amazing student?"

"She is a genius for being the youngest ever to be appointed as a Dragner! Isn't that terrific enough?"

"Hold on. The one who held the record for being the youngest isn't it Rebecca-san.....?"

"The one who rewrote Rebecca one-san's record is no other than Lukka Sarlinen! Moreover, she is obviously the secretary from the student council, how come you don't know her?"

Raymond obviously looked surprised.

"You can't blame me, we never even met."

"You've never met each other..... is it true?"

Although Raymond was not yet satisfied, unfortunately they could no longer continue their private conversation. The chancellor who had received an explanation from the teachers continued to speak:

"Lukka Sarlinen-san is absent because of illness. Then, finally -"

However, the chancellor had failed to finish his words.

Because a sudden burst of resentfulness swept the auditorium. Ash looked around puzzled.

It appeared that some students were protesting against Lukka Sarlinen being selected.

"What is happening? It is just that she took her leave and is absent, what's there to be angry about?"

Right after Ash asked, Raymond with a bitter face replied:

"She was absent not only from this school assembly. I heard that she has been absent for about three months. For someone who is absent for so long to be selected, is it not a wonder for some people to get angry."

"Why has she been absent for three months? Is She injured or sick?"

".....the rumours might be true."

Raymond said something with deep meaning, which made Ash curious.

"What rumours-?"

At this time, the chancellor who was famous for his gentleness spoke with his rarely used loud voice:

"Silence! It is true that Lukka-san has been absent for a long time. But she had left good results. Her total results topped the fifth, so we selected Lukka-san."

The chancellor righteous explanations instantly calmed down the waves of protestation.

"So, I'll finally announce the 'Specially Recommended' student. The Specially Recommended System was only adopted this year. It is evaluated by the student council president, and not by the staff. Rebecca-san- this student is picked personally by you. Please take my place and announce his name."

"Hai."

Rebecca coolly walked up to the podium.

"As you have just heard, based on the Specially Recommended System, I had selected one student."

Rebecca suddenly stopped after saying that. A terrible silence enveloped the hall.

Everyone present was nervous, quietly waiting for Rebecca to announce the name.

"That student is- advance class first grade, Ash Blake."

"Bedwetter ~A.S.B. 1365.6~ is closed"

Chapter 2 - Rebecca's Dangerous Command

Part 1

After class, Ash anxiously went to the student council's office.

Even though he was worried about Eco who had stayed in the dorm the entire day, he insisted that he must speak to Rebecca face to face.

"Excuse me!"

Without even a knock on the door, Ash walked into the student council's office.

Just as he expected, Rebecca was in the office. She was sitting on the couch comfortably drinking her cup of tea. The sweet aroma of the

Ansal tea can be smelled. Apart from Rebecca, there were no other students in the office.

"Hai, Ash. I had expected that you'll show yourself."

Seeing Ash rush into the room, Rebecca smiled.

"What is that about? Why can I also participate in the selective training camp with those kinds of results....."

"Don't you worry, please have a seat first before we start talking."

Ash unwillingly sat down opposite to Rebecca. Upon seeing this, Rebecca suddenly patted the empty space next to her.

"Didn't I tell you before that it is more effective to get to know each other when two people are sitting next to each other? This is the iron rule when dating."

".....Understood."

Although his current mood had nothing to do with dating, Ash obediently sat next to Rebecca. A refreshing scent could be smelled. It was the perfume that Rebecca loves to use.

After Rebecca put down her cup, she looked at Ash. Her emerald-like eyes were reflected in Ash's face.

"Are you so concerned about yourself being selected?"

"Of course, I don't know why I was even chosen....."

The Specially Recommended System was only adopted this year. It was evaluated by the student council president, so I choose you. It is just as simple as this. But-

Saying this, Rebecca showed her tongue. This is the first time Ash saw Rebecca's playful look. That cute look made his heart beat faster.

"To tell you the truth, the person who suggested the Specially Recommended System is me."

"What!? What is your purpose?"

Seeing Ash was dumbfounded, Rebecca, with a calm attitude placed her hand on his lap and gently stroked his knee. Not only that, her mouth was getting closer to Ash's ear.

Rebecca exhaled on his earlobe, which made Ash shivered.

"Are you forcing me to tell you personally? Of course, it is to allow you to participate in the training camp!"

"W-Why?"

"By following the previous selection method, an irregular like you will surely not be selected. But you have a genuine talent. To even have the incredible power of riding other people's pal..... and to have a special pal is also a fact. Additionally, you defeated the Necromancia and 'Avdocha the Convict'. That is why, I insist in letting you participate in the training camp, The Specially Recommended System is used to accomplish this task. "

"So it is really..... for me?"

Ash was staring at Rebecca's beauty.

Am I thinking too much? There is the feeling of Rebecca's cheeks also turning red.

"That Until now, I never fell in love with any particular boy."

"Huh.....?"

"Because no matter how good that boy is, he can never be in the same position as me."

If these words were from the mouth another girl, she may sound arrogant. But since it was Rebecca, it will be another story. After all, she is the unique Ark-Dragner.

"But whenever I see you..... Stranger to say, I am always looking forward to it. I've never had these feelings. Maybe..... I am easily attracted to 'hidden talents'."

Ash was surprised that there were times when Rebecca stuttered. Moreover, she looked like she doesn't know how to deal with her feelings.

"W-What you mean..... is it?"

Ash's heartbeat is almost at its peak.

Rebecca as if leaking her secret, uttered that sentence.

"Can I expect it from you?"

Despite feeling flattered, Ash still had the urge to tightly hug Rebecca. This is the first time Ash had this kind of feelings for Rebecca.

Their shoulders leaned closely together. No, it was done intentionally by Rebecca. Since the summer uniform is made from thin material, Ash was able to clearly feel Rebecca's body temperature. Maybe summer uniforms also have advantages..... This is the first time Ash thinks so.

"Rebecca-san.....!"

Just when Ash was quietly murmuring like he was dreaming-

-Bang!

The door was suddenly opened with a loud sound. Meanwhile, two girls who has lost their balance plunged into the office.

With a closer look, the two were Silvia and Jessica.

Ash quickly got up from the couch.

"What are you doing!?"

"I-It is not me! It was Jessica who suddenly pushed me....."

Silvia while rubbing her waist quickly climbed up. A while back, she slowly built up her royal dignity which made him give her a little admiration. But after she had shown her useless side. Ash felt a little regret.

"Rebecca! I am not gonna let you off easily today!"

Jessica rushed up from the ground and said to her.

"There are so many people for you to seduce and you choose my Ash-sama!"

Rebecca with a nonchalant look replied:

"Jessica, you are mistaken. Ash at this stage does not belong to anyone! Logically speaking, I am not seducing him."

"You're lying! The scene just now....."

"Aright, I won't deny that I might like him in the near future....."

After hearing that, Jessica's expression instantly stiffened.

It seems that she never thought that Rebecca would declare war on her in this case.

Not only Jessica, even Silvia was also speechlessly staring at Rebecca.

"I actually would like to ask what you two were doing suspiciously behind the door. Since you are in the student council, why do you not walk in proudly?"

Rebecca retorted with sharp words, which resulted in Silvia and Jessica explaining with a "Uuh!".

"I-I accidentally saw Ash-sama in the corridor, and I came to take a look and I found out that Princess-sama was standing at the doorway....."

Jessica quietly stared at Silvia.

"I-I initially wanted to ask the president about issues of the selective training camp, but I saw president and Ash..... Err the atmosphere was a little embarrassing, so I was embarrassed to come in....."

After listening to the two explanations, Rebecca sighed.

"The two of you are proud members of the student council, at the same time, both of you are participants of the Selective training camp. I hope that you two have some self-respect, and remind yourselves to keep an honest attitude."

"Understood....."

Opposite of Silvia who humbly accepts the advice, Jessica refuted.

"Hmph! Rebecca are you in a position to make those irresponsible remarks? I wonder who was the girl who embraced Ash-sama on the student council's office sofa? Had Her Royal Highness and I not broke in, God knows at what stage you will be progressing!"

"Ara, such attitude. I'm happy to talk about the trouble you made in your childhood right here? Anyhow you are my childhood playmate. Well, there were many things that could become the topic."

Despite the smile made by the smooth lips, Rebecca's eyes did not show any smiling sign. Like an eagle forcing its prey into its beak, they were bursting out with dazzling light.

"Yikes.....!"

Her previous arrogance had disappeared. Jessica who turn pale was sweating profusely.

"I-It was my b-bad."

"Hmm, it is good to admit you are wrong honestly."

When Rebecca was answering while smiling- someone frantically rushed in through the opened door.

"President! Something was very wrong.....!"

It was Max, who was in charge of the accounts. Perhaps he was running at full speed along the way because he was out of breath. He didn't even notice that his spectacle was not in the right place.

How urgent was the situation for the calm Max to become this way? Ash was also feeling very tense since the city had been full of disaster recently,

"What happened, Max? To be panicked to this extent is not your style."

The student council president is sure to be very experienced, Rebecca was still calm even after seeing Max's expression. She was calmly waiting for Max to reply.

"W-We received a report..... there is smoke emerging from the Merk House of the women's dormitory-!"

"Is it a small fire?"

"The details are unclear. But, the smoke is suspected to be emerging from Lukka Saarinen's room....."

Upon hearing Lukka Saarinen's name, Rebecca face became pale.

"I'll leave for Merk home... In my name Rebecca Randall I order! Respond to my summon, Cú Chulainn-"

The next moment, Maestro Cú Chulainn who responded to Rebecca's summoning spell appeared in front of the window.

Part 2

Rebecca stood on Cú Chulainn's neck heroically, but Ash, Silvia and Jessica were struggling to cling on to its fur.

Because Max was almost out of breath, he was left behind in the Student Council's office. The other reason was that it would not be appropriate to leave the office empty when an emergency situation occurred.

In the end, there was no need for such a large group of people to march forth to the scene. As long as Rebecca was dealing with it personally, she was sure to come up with the most appropriate solution.

However, after Rebecca and Ash jumped on Cú Chulainn, a strange thing happened. Silvia and Jessica also stepped on the window and jumped.

After giving a wry smile, Rebecca immediately changed back to her serious looks.

"Take us to the Merk house!"

After receiving Rebecca's orders, Cú Chulainn gave an earth shattering roar and spread its wings.

Ash and the rest just felt a floating sensation and a strong pressure. The Merk house, which took twenty minutes to walk to, was right in front of them in the blink of an eye.

The Merk house was designed as the accommodation for the basic class female students.

Unsurprisingly, the outside of the dormitory was packed with girls. They should be the ones who escaped after finding out about the smoke.

The girls screamed after they saw Rebecca jump down from Cú Chulainn. The Student council president Rebecca Randall had always been regarded as an idol by the low-grade students.

"We are from the student council! Is the warden here?"

After Rebecca stated her name loudly, an old lady walked towards her.

"Is Lukka still in her room?"

Rebecca quickly asked and the warden nodded.

"That's right. The other students called her several times, but she didn't respond....."

According to the warden, the conclusions were as follows-

Not long ago. The students living on the same floor as Lukka discovered smoke coming out from her room. If such an event occurred in the advance class dormitory, the advance class students should have a way to calmly handle it.

However, the lower class students who were still mentally immature, were shocked by the unexpected events. Their fear spread like an epidemic and it finally become a commotion.

Warden said that she had gotten a headache just trying to get the panicked girls to safety. Logically speaking, she should have the spare key to open Lukka's room, but she was busy with some other stuff.

The warden who finished speaking handed over the silver keys to Rebecca.

"This is the spare key to Lukka-san's room."

"I understand. Please stay here and take care of the students."

After receiving the key, she started to run. Ash and the others followed behind Rebecca. On the way there, Ash asked Rebecca.

"Rebecca-san..... I would like to ask what kind of problem the girl named Lukka Saarinen is facing."

Perhaps this was not an important enough question for them to talk about while running. But even the calm Rebecca mobilized Cú Chulainn to rush to the Merk house after she heard Lukka's name. It meant that the situation right now was not some small matter.

"She is now being severely tortured because she as a Dragner lost her ability to ride her pal..... although she gave excuses like being unwell; in fact the problem is much more serious. Since she was unable to ride her pal, she secluded herself in her dormitory. Recently, there were many students who began to show concern about Lukka's problem."

"I see....."

It was not rare for a breeder to be unable to ride his Pal. For example, illnesses, injuries, etc and many other strange things could be the reason. At the school assembly, "That rumor" that Raymond said could be this.

"Don't tell me that because she couldn't ride, and thus..."

An ominous possibility brushed through Ash's mind.

"That's not impossible no one can guarantee anything, that's why I'm so anxious."

After finishing this sentence, Rebecca kept silent. The group rushed into the dorm, walked down the hallway and climbed the stairs.

Soon, Rebecca stopped in front of a door. It was located at the end of the corridor on the third floor.

The name list beside the door showed only the name Lukka Saarinen. The basic class dormitory were generally three person bedrooms, it appeared that she was living alone.

Leaving the question aside, the main focus was on the source of the smoke.

In fact, some visible white smoke could be seen floating out from the cracks around the door.

Compared to the big commotion, the amount of smoke could only be regarded as insignificant.

"Lukka! Answer me!"

Rebecca knocked on the door, but there still wasn't any response from inside.

"I'm going to open the door!"

Rebecca put the key in the keyhole. With some 'rattle' sound of metal, the door unlocked. Once the door was opened, the white smoke poured into the corridor.

Rebecca entered the room followed by Ash. Most of the smoke drifted into the corridor after the door was opened.

Ash looked around the room.

The room was cramped with all kinds of dried plants, which did not look like a girl's room. To force a description, this was more like a pharmacist's workroom.

To Ash's surprise, in addition to the furniture that the dormitory provided, the room also had some working tables. They must have been Lukka's private property.

In the center of the room, there was a low round table, which was of a design that wasn't normally seen in the Knight Country and the Kingdom.

In addition, the surprising number of flower pots made the others curious. Flower pots were lined from the wall side to the window side of the room. Each flower pot contained plants that Ash had never seen before.

The reason why she could have this amazingly large number of personal belongings in a room was that she was using a room for three alone. Although there was a double bed and a single bed by the wall, they were used to place her stuff.

"Lukka!"

Just when Rebecca shouted the room's owner's name.....

Ash was shocked by what he saw.

A girl suspected to be Lukka was lying in the middle of the room.

The problem was, Lukka's body was lying in a container that looked like a coffin. The base of the container was covered with a layer of soft flowers. Her hands were also folded over her chest.

The only words that could be used to describe Lukka were- it was her corpse.^[4]

"It can't be.....?"

Silvia and Jessica rushed past Ash who was muttering towards the side of the coffin.

After witnessing Lukka's appearance, Silvia and Jessica froze.

At that point

"Fyuaa....."

Followed by a cute yawn, the body slowly sat up.

Even though it had a sleepy look, Ash was almost scared out of his skin.

She was like a Yōsei from the fairy tales.

Her whitish gold straight hair was shoulder length. Beneath the neatly trimmed fringes were a pair of big amethyst-like mysterious watery shining eyes.

Her skin was like white porcelain, which normal whiteness couldn't be compared with. On the surface, she looked like an exquisite doll. Her petite height was no different from Eco. But she gave a feeling of a dreamy easily breakable object, which was different from the lively Eco.

The most important feature, were those protruding ears that could be seen sticking out from her beautiful hair. Even the tip of her ear was pointy. Ash had long ago heard about the existence of this race, but until today, it was the first time he actually saw one.

"..... Anything?"

Facing a group of stunned people, Lukka lazily looked at the faces around while speaking with a clear voice.

Part 3

Lukka one by one put out the flames in the incense burner and the smoke in the room slowly dissipated. The smoke seemed to be produced by the burning of a special bright dragon crystal so it was harmless.

The students outside had return to their rooms after the situation had settled down.

"To put it bluntly, the smoke was produced in the incense burner."

Lukka answered Rebecca questions. With her back facing the crowd, she covered the final incense burner's lid.

While looking at Lukka's small ass, Ash became surprised.

The shape of her hips could be seen through the one-piece pajamas. But right now, the focus was not on the traces of her underwear.

- Is she.....?

Just when Ash was troubled about where he was looking, Lukka turned around and faced the rest.

"I'm sorry to give you all a shock."

Lukka was sitting on her heels^[5] and respectfully apologize by bowing down. Her every move made people worry. Describing this in another way, she was the kind of person who would provoke the urge of others to protect her unconditionally.

"You need not apologize. It is enough as long as you're safe. But please do not light so much incense in the future; otherwise the others students could think that it was a fire."

Lukka nodded humbly while Rebecca was reminding her.

"..... Rebecca words have always been right. I will pay more attention next time."

"Come on, must you make the scene to look so deserted! Besides, what is that coffin about?"

"Coffin.....? You are wrong. This is an Eckbald styled bed. It can be used directly in funerals; it features are very good."



"Sure enough, that's a coffin! I can no longer bear with you, do you think as long as you give others a dreamy feel, you will be forgiven regardless of what you do? Without mentioning the rest, while facing your senpai, don't you think that your tone of speaking is a little rude! "

"That's enough! Lukka had always been timid and she is not like you. Don't be too hard on her."

Jessica was angered after being scolded by Rebecca.

"Wha.... I am as timid as most people are!"

Although Ash thought that she was speaking that way to make herself feel better, but it was better for him not to comment on anything.

"Excuse me, Jessica. Please be a little quiet."

Even Silvia also tried to correct Jessica this time.

"Back to the topic, president, could you ask her to re-introduce herself? After all, apart from you all of us here have just met her for the first time."

Rebecca nodded while smiling at Silvia's proposal.

"Hmm, what a good idea. Lukka please introduce yourself."

Even when Rebecca asked her to self-introduce, Lukka remained silent. Her head kept on facing downwards with a timid appearance. In the end -

"I'll make some tea."

She suddenly stood up and hid in the kitchen.

Seeing Lukka had left, Rebecca smiled.

"She is still the same and has always been shy. I will introduce her in her place. As you had known, she is called Lukka Saarinen. She had such an uncommon name because she is an Eckbald."

-Eckbald

Commonly known as the 'forest Yōsei '. Since ancient times they had lived in the forest, a race with beautiful looks.

By looking at Lukka's appearance, you would be able to know that the 'forest Yōsei ' description fits very well. Their pointed ears were exactly the same as the Yōsei from the fairy tales.

Appart from their beautiful looks, they were also famous for their herbology. The efficiency of the herbs made by the Eckbald was acknowledged by people around the world and the market price for them was always high.

However, the most important feature of an Eckbald was neither their beautiful appearance, nor their profound knowledge of herbs.

- But as a heroic race of Dragners.

That was the reason why the Eckbalds were called Eckbald.

Why was there the need to use the past tense? Because today, the heroic legend of the Eckbalds had become the legends of yesterday.

Written in the history textbooks, because of the declining of the Dragons, the number of people who became a breeder had also decline.

At this moment, Rebecca suddenly lowered down her voice and whispered.

"Currently, Lukka is the only Eckbald in this academy. That is why the all the Eckbalds in the Eckbald autonomous regions have high hopes for Lukka. But, I have to say that some of those people's thinking are behind time....."

"Behind time?"

Silvia looked confused.

"Nn they harbor a strong admiration over the Dragner. Since the Dragners were ordered to be involved in the Xenoglavia War, their thinking had been behind time. There are now many parents praying for their children to not become a Dragner. Especially the more affluent their family is and it is getting more and more serious. After all, most parents do not want their child to be ordered to the battlefield. "

"This issue really is no trivial matter! I really want to interrogate those people, for those who lost their admiration for the Dragners, can they call themselves the people of the Knight country!"

"Uuh..... Princess-sama? The focus is now on Lukka!"

Being reminded by Ash, Silvia blushed.

"S-Sorry, I'm a little too excited. '

Silvia immediately controlled her temper.

"In short, even when bearing such a heavy burden, she was eventually just a fourteen year old girl. I hope she can get rid of the shackles of her family and happily enjoy her campus life, so please be sure to get along with Lukka."

When Rebecca summed up this conclusion-

"..... Sorry, it is just some simple tea."

Lukka was back with a tray. On the tray, there were cups which were equal to the number of people. There was also hot white smoke coming from the cups.

Since it was summer, they would like to drink some cold drinks instead of tea, but they mustn't complain about what she had specially made for them.

Lukka placed the hot teas on the low round table.

Ash was slightly not used to it. Because he experienced drinking tea while sitting on the ground. However, since Eco's birth, Ash had been sleeping on the ground, so he could still accept the idea of drinking tea on the ground. Rebecca on the other hand was very relaxed.

However, Silvia and Jessica couldn't seem to accept the habit of sitting on the ground, They sat on the bed while holding their hot tea.

Although the beds were also filled with debris, they still managed to squeeze out a space for two girls.

Ash also took a cup of hot tea. Judging from the rugged shape, this cup should have been made personally. It is probably an item from her hometown.

The thing that made the others worry was the steaming dark green liquid in the cups. Maybe it was mixed with various herbs; the liquid exuded a strong smell.

Ash casually turned around for a glance and found out that Rebecca was already drinking. The way she was drinking can be call heroic.

"That, I would like to ask..... What tea is this?"

After being asked by Ash, Lukka held her cup and stayed silent for a moment. For such a simple question, why did she even need to think? Ash became increasingly uneasy.

"This tea was created by me..... so it has no name. But I'm sure that it has the effect for enhancing one's energy after drinking."

"The effect... Of enhancing one's energy.....!"

After listening to Lukka's description Jessica reacted. She shoved her cup of tea at Ash and looked at him with a pair of pleading eyes.

"I beg you, Ash-sama! Please drink my share! Then please give me your sperm!"

"How could you say such shameless words.....! Don't you have some shame? A sense of shame!"

Silvia who was red in the face commented on Jessica.

"Ara, why does Princess-sama want to even bother with me?"

"It is not because you're too shameless! As a lady of the Knight Country, can't you show some modesty!"

"Is it really just because of this.....?"

"O-Otherwise is there any other reason!"

While the two kept on quarrelling, Ash on the other side had made up his mind to finish it as if he was drinking poison.

Glup.....

Ash felt like he was drinking mud and just barely managed to keep himself from spitting it out.

Silvia and Jessica also tried to follow. But they both looked a lot healthier than before they started drinking. Only Rebecca alone was unaffected.....

"Anyway, Lukka. How are you now?"

"It seems that I still can't."

Lukka distress-fully answered Rebecca's question.

"That I heard that you seemed to have lost the ability to ride your Pal. Do you have any clue for the reason it happened?"

Ask asked with a calm tone and Lukka murmured.

"..... I do not know, but I have not forgotten the riding method."

"Otherwise, what else could it be?"

"It is..... Gawain is rejecting me."

After a simple explanation, Lukka remain silent. Perhaps she lacked emotions, her face was as expressionless as a doll.

So Rebecca answered the questions in Lukka's place.

"Gawain had been rejecting Lukka for three months. Until now, we have yet to find solutions to this problem."

"Since the reason is still unknown, it is no wonder that nothing can be done. So we can only wait and see how will it progress, no?"

Jessica looked disappointed.

"No, the problem mustn't continue to drag on."

Rebecca suddenly became serious.

"The point is the Astral that links Lukka and Gawain had been cut off. If we continue to wait, then Gawain's life would be in danger." The sudden development made Ash speechless.

Part 4

After leaving the Merk house and breaking up from the group of student council members, Ash went to the city alone.

He intended to buy crepes for Eco as an apology for coming home late because it was Eco's favorite food.

The works in St Durham Square had been successfully completed and the crowds there were back like the old times. Ash soon found a street vendor selling crepes, and asked the vendor to wrap up the vanilla flavored crepes in a wrapping paper.

Written on notice given out by the vendor was the message about a new chocolate banana flavored crepe that was going to be launched. I must tell Eco about this when I return- Ash while thinking so, walked back to his home.

Part 5

Back on the school grounds, after passing by the dragon homes, Ash again began to think about Lukka's problem.

-Astral.

It was a must substance for the creatures on this planet to sustain their life. It was said that, Astral was the main reason for the declining of the Dragons.

Even the great Dragons could supply Astral to their own selves. Thanks to the connection between the humans who were rich in Astral since birth, the dragons were able to survive.

According to Rebecca, Gawain's body was getting weaker by the day. It was now eating food with high content of Astral to survive..... The problem was that the content of Astral in the food was very little. If the dragons could survive through this method, then they would not need to bow down to the humans.

Is there anything that I can be of help.....? Ash was thinking deeply.

Lukka was now being tested as a breeder and as a Dragner. The reason she was shutting herself in was mainly because by the pressure.

..... In the end, Ash had returned to the boys' dormitory, the Apollo home before he could come up with a method.

Part 6

It was evening. Eco had passed her day alone in the room of the Apollo home. Except, Cosette who was worried about her and had visited her for a few times, she hadn't spoken to anyone.

Fortunately, the summer sun was very strong and the cushions and sheets that Eco wets were completely dried. Eco who usually let Ash do the housework alone had brought in the clothes on her own.

This was also her first attempt to make her bed. Although the results can only be considered so-so, but she still had completed it. Eco lied down on the bed lazily. The air is full of the smell of the sun.

"....."

The embarrassment of wetting her bed this morning had left a scar in her heart. For the highly dragon to wet her bed this was unforgivable.

After all, how could she do something so embarrassing?

"That dream..... What is it about?"

Yes, the culprit is the ominous nightmare.

The nine fiercely frightening eyes.

The sticky tentacles that was all over.

Just by recalling them in her mind, Eco's body was trembling with fear.

She crawled out from the bed and quickly locked the door and windows. Even when it was a hot day, she still took out the fur blankets for the closet.

Next, Eco was back to the bed and covered her whole body with the blanket.

Her limbs were madly trembling. I'm scared. I'm really scared. Why would I be frightened until this extend?

By the way..... Before I woke up, the thing seems to say something.

It seems to be a very important, but.....

"..... I really can't remember anything."

Eco rolled over while being wrapped in the blanket.

After rolling left and right for a while, she became angry.

"Damn him...! Why is he not back yet?"

Eco started to complain about Ash. Logically speaking, the school had finished but Ash was still not yet returned. He should have been taken away by the student council as a slave.

-Why doesn't he even think that I had been waiting for him to come home for a long time!

Right at this moment, Eco suddenly came to her sense.

"No, no! I-I didn't..... Who will wait for that type of person!"

Her cheeks were red hot. Eco told herself that she had misunderstood; her cheeks were hot because of the blanket that she had been covering herself with.

It was not because of Ash's absents she had become lonely. She had just becomes a little timid because of that nightmare.

Having said that, Eco still inevitably still thinks that, if Ash had rushed home immediately, she wouldn't need to be afraid.....

Moreover, they were linked together by the Astral. They were partners who sign the sacred contract. Logically speaking it was their right to accompany each other.

In other words, Ash is the one who should be condemned!

Just when Eco jumped into conclusions..... someone with a 'Kon Kon' had knocked the door.

".....!"

Eco was as shown literally, jumped up on the spot.

Part 7

Ash was confused because there was no reply after he knocked the door.

"Where did that Eco ran to.....?"

Just as Ash reluctantly reached into his pocket to pull out his keys, the door suddenly sprang open.

"It hurts!"

Because his forehead was hit by the door, he was now in pain.

Then, Eco like a cannon ball rushed to him from the room.

"Uwaa!"

Ash fell to the ground after that impact. His Crepes also fell to the ground.

Because of the lightning speed Eco also hit into Ash's arms. The fell of her soft skin was pass-through through the thin summer wears cloth.

"A-Are you alright?"

Ash asked in surprise, but Eco refused to answer even a word. She just buried her face in his chest. Whenever she breathes on his chest, Ash became nervous.

For Eco to show such attitude, Ash began to worry about her.

"D-Don't tell me you are drunk? Didn't I tell you a few times already to not touch the Ansal grass?"

After talking to her in a stern tone, Eco finally replied.

"..... Right, I'm drunk. What complains do you have about it?"

It was rare for Eco to talk in such ambiguous tone.

"Eco.....?"

Even while she verbally declared herself to be "drunk", Eco was obviously awake. If she was really drunk, the things that she will do will not be limited to this extent.

Fortunately, there were no other students in the corridor right now. So Ash could temporarily condone with Eco's behavior. Eco's forehead was next to Ash's chest and her body was trembling without control. She was almost like a child. What could she possibly be frightened by?

Though Ash still does not understand why she was so frightened, he still put his hand on her head to comfort her.

"Rest assured, I am here."

The two of them hugged each other for quite some time. After a long while, Eco finally stopped trembling.

Part 8

After a while, Eco released ash and flew back into the room.

"Uuu ~ ~!"

She seems to be troubled. Perhaps embarrassed by her own actions just now, Ash felt that her every movement was very entertaining.

The most surprising thing is that she actually took the initiative to make the bed. Even that meant to be a praise, but still the work done cannot be something called good. But still Ash was glad from the bottom of his heart. Because of that push, Eco could now automatically do the house chores.

"That's right; I had bought some snacks for you."

Ash cheekily smiles, while placing a bag of Crepes on Eco's hands.

"This is the vanilla flavored crepes. It is your favorite, right?"

Once blurted, Eco's stomach growled loudly. Perhaps it is rude to describe the sound with earth-shattering, but the way it sound could only be sent out by a dragon.

Eco suddenly blushed.

"M-My favorite flavor is Ansal!"

Then she snappily said as if to cover up the embarrassment. Looking at Eco who was finally back to her usual reactions, Ash finally calmed down.

Eco, as if she had risen to heaven, tore out the wrapping papers. Although the shapes had changed because they were dropped on the floor just now, but Eco didn't even mind one bit and just gave it a bite.

"How does it taste?"

Eco didn't answer. She can be seen with her mouth stuffed with crepes and stay motionless.

".....Anything?"

Without warning, there were tears dripping from her eyes which made Ash panic.

"Hey hey, does it really taste so bad to the point you need to cry?"

"That's not it....."

Eco shook her head and silently eat the crepes.

Eco who ate three crepes alone sat on the bed and quietly explain the whole story.

"This morning I had a dream."

"What dream?"

"A horrible nightmare..... It seems that I was attacked by a Necromancia. It stretches it's tentacles towards m-me..... The reason that I wet the bed..... I am afraid it is because of this."

Eco shivered and grabbed her shoulders with both hands. It must be terrifying in her dream.

Ash wants to try helping Eco to overcome her fear. After a deep thought, he finally stretched out his trembling hand and move towards her shoulders from behind.

He then gently held that glass-like shoulders.

Not only Eco didn't refuse, but she was also relieved and lean her body on Ash's. This is the first time Ash saw her to be so cute and docile.

Under such warm, his heart was racing.

"The Necromancia had been beaten by us! You need not fear it!"

"No, that's not a Necromancia."

Eco feebly shook her head.

"It true that the monster looked like a Necromancia..... but it is not the same. That monster..... is not something that can be defeated easily, not to mention it has nine eyes."

Nine eyes. Just imagining it will give people the creeps.

"How should it describe it..... it was gigantic and its looks was unknown..... it is absolutely the incarnation of evil. And.... the most incredible thing is that I shouldn't have recognized that monster..... but I feel that we have encountered each other several times before."

"How could that be? If you came in contact with such a dangerous monster, I would have found out. After all, we live under the same roof."

"I guess you're right."

"It was just a dream. I advise you not to think too much about it."

"But....."

Eco looked unusually depressed.

At this time, what should I do?

While clutching Eco's shoulder, Ash was secretly thinking.

..... The memories of his hometown suddenly surfaced.

Ash has a sister. When she was a child, she often came crying to Ash and complain about her nightmare. Whenever she had a nightmare, his sister would sneak into his room.

Ash could still remember his sister hugging his personal pillow while crying. Once Ash agreed to let his sister squeeze into his bed, she murmured while half crying and half laughing, "I'm no longer scared".....

- I know what to do!

Ash had made up his decision and was ready to perform tonight's operation.

Part 10

Once it was time for lights-out, the students in the dormitory put out the Bright Dragon Crystal lights.

Ash was no exception. If he was to be caught with the lights on, he will be lambasted by the warden.

Eco as usual was lying on the bed naked.

He will sleep on the same bed with Eco tonight- this is Ash's plan.

However once it is time, all he could think about was Eco's naked body. To build up the courage to sneak into a naked girl's bed, it was near impossible.

However, today's Eco can't be compared with her past. The Eco now was a poor frightened girl who had a nightmare.

As long as he takes her as his sister, then there is no longer any problem. Even when she was naked but the room is still dark. If he didn't focus his thought on this, then this problem will be immediately solved.

After Ash ensured himself, he crawled out from the futon from the floor.

With a pillow under his arm, he walked towards the side of the bed.

"Please excuse me!"

After a slight notice, Ash got into the empty space next to Eco. The thin summer blanket felt somewhat nice and warm because of Eco's body temperature. The only thing is, make sure not to touch Eco's naked body

"W-What are you doing? What are you up to!"

Once she discovered Ash climbed on the bed, with a look of horror, Eco rushed to keep their distance.

"Do not worry. I'll stay with you for tonight."

"What?"

Ash was confused. He did not expect such a response from Eco. He thought that she would be grateful. His confidence that he previously build up is collapsing.

"Err, I just want to accompany you while sleep so you'll no longer wet the bed-"

"..... What did you say?"

Eco slowly sits up.

Although the room was too dark to see Eco's naked body..... but her curves can still be seen. But now is not the time to feel nervous. It was now an alarming situation. And Ash's instinct is now ringing.

"Do you really think.....? I might commit the same embarrassment?"

Eco's voice trembled. She was apparently very furious about it.

Until Ash found out that he had spoken the wrong things, it was already too late to take it back.

"Err-err..... In short please calm down first. I didn't meant anything bad for saying those things-"

Unfortunately, Ash failed to finish his sentence.

"Don't get carried away!"

With a Donk!, he was hit by a violent kick.

Gwak!

Ash as if being hit by a hammer was knocked back for quite a distance. Fortunately, he fell on his futon and at least he was avoided from feeling the pain for being hit directly on the floor.

"Hmph!"

After Eco snappily grunted, she lay back on her bed.

It seems that Ash had made a huge mistake. But having said that, since there she had the spirit to cause such a fuss, perhaps she had gotten rid of the nightmare.

At least, Eco who sent ash flying with a kick is back to her formal self.

Part 11

The next day after school.....

President Rebecca, Silvia of the discipline, Max of the accounting and as the replacement for the secretary, Ash and Jessica of the general affairs as well as the mascot Eco were gathered in the Student Council's office.

Secretary Lukka and the vice president who was like a genius from the outer world were also absent today.

Perhaps last night's incident had a positive effect; Eco is back to her old self. She wore a summer uniform borrowed from Cosette and attended the meeting as if she had something to do with it.

Eco's duty was just simply playing the role of a mascot which there is no need to attend meetings, but she is still the same old-elf who doesn't let anyone to leave her by the side. Of course Eco's well-behaved attitude yesterday is full of charm, but the lively Eco still best suit her, Ash thought so.

"Today's topic is on the student council secretary, Lukka Saarinen."

Rebecca with her sharp eyes looked at the faces around.

"Sooner or later she would become the soul to lead the school; the she right now could not be trouble by this obstacle. I personally strongly hope to solve the problem as soon as possible and take her to participate in the training camp."

The first person to respond to this was Jessica.

"I can understand that you are worried about her, but what can we do to help? I think that it is better to hand this problem for Angela- sensei to handle....."

Angela anyhow has the research authority for dragons. She should have the ability to teach in the highest institution and is an extremely talented. Ash also agreed with Jessica's views.

"Unfortunately, I had discussed with Angela-sensei about it. Basically, the person who is responsible for finding out that the astral between Lukka and Gawain had been cut off it was none other that Angela-sensei."

"Based on Angela-sensei's judgment, what is the cause of it?"

Once Ash asked, Rebecca shrugged her shoulders.

"It seems that she also can do nothing about it."

"How could.....!"

For those who did research on the dragons, there is almost not one who is in the same league as Angela. When the well versed Angela can't do anything, what the student council can be of any help?

"The situation is indeed desperate, but we cannot just stand aside idly. If it go on like this, will sooner or later it would be a certain death for Gawain who runs out of Astral."

The heavy words made Ash shudder again.

"All of you are elite students; do you have any good suggestion?"

Jessica is the first to raise her hands.

"In times like this, we should ask 'Silver Knight'-sama to make his appearance! On matter how difficult the situation is, 'Silver Knight'- sama can use his wisdom, courage and magic to solve them! Right, Ash- sama! "

"The 'Silver Knight' that you are talking about is the one in the novel, right? To confuse him with me would be a little too....."

"Waa..... Even the humble Ash-sama looks handsome!"

Jessica was not bothered by the presence of others and hugged Ash's head tightly. Because of Ash was sitting on the chair, his face sunk into Jessica's breast.

".....Uwaa!"

In contrast to her slender waist, Jessica's breast is rather big. The breasts changes its shape softly and had covered Ash's cheek.

"Wait a minute; this guy is my meat slave! If you dare to continue to stick to him, I'll have you crushed!"

Upon seeing this, Eco immediately suddenly stood up. Incidentally, the 'meat slave' here has absolutely no indecent meaning. It means to supply its master food when its master was hungry.

"T-To have such unsightly behavior in the sacred student council office..... As a knight, you should have known that there must be a distance between men and women! This is the Lautreamont family's rules!"

Even Silvia was also feeling angry and stood up straight.

"Enough!."

Fortunately, Rebecca intervened to prevent anything bad from happening.

Silvia and Jessica returned to their seats. Perhaps Eco instinctively sensed some danger coming from Rebecca, she obediently sit down and didn't even dare to say a thing obediently sit in the seat.

"Jessica, can't you calm down a little?"

Rebecca warned by calling her name, but Jessica just snappily answered.

"Hmph..... You only know how to complain about others, what about yourself? You only know how to seek opinions from others and didn't even give your own views..... you are not acting like Rebecca Randall. Or is it that even the 'Scarlet Empress' is also unable to do anything?"

"My idea? It is not that I don't have any, but it was risky."

"Risky..... what do you mean?"

Jessica was surprised.

Somehow, Rebecca gave a stabbing like look to ash. Her emerald eyes were intently staring straight at him which almost stops his heartbeat.

"Ash, you are said to be able to ride all dragons. Even the Necromancia is no exception, right?"

"Rebecca..... san?"

Ash gulped, waiting for Rebecca to give out her order.

"Go and ride Gawain."

"What did you say!"

"When you are riding the Necromancia, you have the sense that its will, right?"

"Uh... just faintly."

The memories resurfaced. In fact, Ash had heard the dead gray dragon spoke. Even though it had happened at the beginning of last month, Ash still felt like it had happened for a long time.

"So, I hope you can use the same technique on Gawain. Gawain might be willing to open his heart to you."

Ash remembered about Lukka.

Even yesterday was a weekday, she still hid herself in her room in broad daylight, wearing pajamas. Perhaps she is poor in expressing her emotions; she doesn't look as if she was greatly depressed. However, she should have received a huge blow. Maybe, this has a thing or two that is related to the Eckbald.

- I want to save her.

Ash sincerely thought so.

It is because I am her senior in the same school? It is because that we are fellow breeder? A Student council's member's responsibility?

To reasons cannot be denied. However, even if those factors were to be cast aside, Ash just cannot sit back and watch a helpless girl to continue languish.

Ash decided to obey his feelings deep inside.

"I understand. I am willing to gamble for it."

"Thank you for your cooperation. Then, the task is scheduled to be performed after school tomorrow-"

Part 12

The next day, the ringing of the noon bell also signifies that the school had ended of the rest of the day. Because that there will be a staff meeting in the afternoon, thus they only have classes for the morning session.

"Kuu... Kuu..."

Eco, who also sneak into the classroom today, occupied the seat next to Ash. Like usual, she was lying on the table fast asleep. Even when the bell had struck, she still didn't have signs of waking up.

"I..... really don't know how to deal with her."

Since she wanted to sleep that much, then there is no need to come to the classroom..... Ash secretly complained.

Leaving the issue aside, Eco's sleeping face is like an angel. Every time he saw her sleeping face, he heart will became soft and forgive her usual bad doings. Even Ash himself felt strange. Looking at her soft face, Ash suddenly had the thought of poking her.

"-To be peaking at a girl's sleeping face, you really have a low taste."

For someone to suddenly speak from behind, Ash almost jumped.

"Princess-sama?"

Many students who had begun to pack up and go home to prepare gave a surprised look to Silvia. For Silvia to start a conversation with someone in the classroom is like the sun rising from the west.

Silvia who was not bothered by the rest continued to just stare at Ash. Her ice blue colored eyes were as if they are gently swaying.

"Do you really intend to ride... Gawain?"

"Why do to ask me this question now?"

"B-Because....."

Silvia looked aside, suddenly revealing an anxious look. Silvia who was usually noble and acted highly, somehow looked very cute.

Silvia suddenly blushed.

"Well, that..... I-I just"

"Just?"

"N-Nothing! Just don't try too hard! In the end, this is Lukka and Gawain's problem. If you intervene and resulting in a heavy injury..... I will never forgive you! "

Silvia finished her confusing talk, she suddenly turned around and walk off.

Her gorgeous shiny blonde hair sways gently with the wind.

Leaving a faint fragrance, Silvia marched out of the classroom.

"She... What is she angry about?"

Ash watched Silvia's back blankly.

Part 13

The top floor in the center tower in the campus.

While facing the in the student council member who gathered in the student council office, Rebecca loudly announced:

"So, I'll announce your work today, I'll first go to the Seventh Dragon House and explain it to the staffs, Max is responsible to look for Angela-sensei, because basically we must have a teacher to be present while doing the job. Ash, Eco, Silvia, Jessica are to meet with Lukka. Are there any other questions? "

Jessica was the first to raise her hand and comment.

"To fetch Lukka over, a person is enough."

"Do not underestimate her. To just drag her out of her room, you should cause enough trouble for you. It is an absolute indoor type^[6], it is just that this incident had intensified her symptoms. "

After listening to Rebecca's answer, Jessica sighed.

"Haa..... I understand. We will take responsibility to bring her out. Princess-sama also doesn't have any problems with this, right?..... Princess-sama?"

Silvia seemed like she had just come out of her trance and raised her head to reply:

"Ah, ahh..... Understood."

Since she had spoken those confusing words in the classroom, Silvia looked lost. This made Ash worry endlessly

"So I'll be waiting for everyone to report in the Seventh Dragon House. Members report. Kaisan!"^[7]

Part 14

"Lukka-san..... Lukka-san! Are you in there! Please answer me!"

Jessica was shouting while knocking. But there was no response.

"Don't know what had happened to her?"

Jessica stiffened her face, while looking at Ash and the rest. It seems that she is not certain on what she is going to do next.

Eco who lost patience, impatiently lifted her feet.

"For a paper thin door like this, why don't we just -"

Eco intends to use her abnormal dragon strength to break the door.

"Hold on!"

Ash quickly stopped Eco.

"Do you know who is going to pay for it after you break them! Please do not do anything necessary!"

"Hey! How dare you try to order me when it is obviously me who is taking care of you? Meat slave!"

"Who is your meat slave!"

"What are you arguing about.....?"

Silvia who arrived a little later was dumbfounded when Ash and Eco were quarreling. Silvia was holding a silver key.

"I guessed that might be the case, so I borrowed a spare key from the warden."

"Just what is expected of our princess."

Jessica took the key and inserted it into the key hole.

"Lukka-san I am going to open the door!"

The door opened with a Click Jessica march into the room.

Sure enough, Lukka is fast asleep in the coffin.

Although the room was filled with the smell of incense like yesterday, but she seems to have followed Rebecca's instruction to control the amount of smoke.

"I don't really get her..... to be sleeping in broad daylight."

After Jessica complained, she pulled back the half-opened curtains. The noon sunlight had filled the room.

"Uuu..... Nnn..... Stop..... I'm going to melt....."

Lukka muttered and then rolled over. The hem of her one-piece pajamas was lifted and her snow-white lower body was exposed.

".....!"

Lukka was without her panties. Ash saw her small and rounded hips. On her ass the contract with the dragons- 'Seikoku' can be seen.

"Hey! I forbid you from staring!"

Silvia grabbed Ash's head and twist it regardless.

"Ash-sama you musn't peek! If you like hips this much, then it is fine for you to look at mine!"

On the other hand, Jessica was lecturing something that is off topic to him while helping Lukka with her pajamas.

"Uuu....."

At this time, Lukka finally woke up. She, like an electric doll slowly sat up. Then, with her dreamy eyes, she looked around with a shocked expression..

"..... Who are you?"

"We just met yesterday!"

Ash commented. She really is a perverse girl.

Logically speaking, everyone will get a shock when some stranger walks into their room. But, she is completely unmoved. Is this a behavior of an Eckbald or Lukka's own- It feels like the latter, or else the Eckbald would have perished long ago"Ah, I remember. You are Johnny?"

"Who is Johnny! That name has nothing to do with me. I am Ash, Ash!"

"S-Sorry."

Lukka disappointedly lowered her shoulders.

"Hey! This is outrageous. How dare you bully a girl from a lower grade! Buzz off!"

Silvia who looked flustered stepped forward. She with her golden thread-like hair and highly tone ordered her without any explanation.

"Lukka Saarinen we need cooperation from you and Gawain. We will immediately head to the Seventh Dragon Homes, please get ready."

Lukka looked straight into Silvia's face as if she is going to pierce a hole in her face. After a long while, Lukka murmured:

"Who are you?"

"Wha...!"

After hearing, Silvia turned pale. She probably didn't expect someone from this school to not recognize Silvia Lautreamont the fourth princess from the Knights royal family.

Silvia as if she had suffered a knock, moved around unsteadily, while muttering facing the wall.

"T-There is some student who does not recognize me..... Is my presence such unimportant..... This me is not fit to be a royal..... I'm ashamed to face onee-sama who come here to motivate me....."

"That, Princess-sama are you okay?"

Jessica rushed to Silvia's side.

While letting Jessica to comfort Silvia, the hope is now on Ash and Eco. Regardless of what, they must drag her out from her bed to the Seventh Dragon House.

At this time, Lukka seems to have a strong interest in Eco. She suddenly cling to her waist tightly.

"Hu..."

Eco who was attacked lost her footing and was dragged into the coffin shaped bed by Lukka.

"Wait..... What are you doing!"

Eco naturally became furious, but Lukka was not bothered by it. She held Eco who fell on the bed and drag her closer. Then, she stared at her head closely. It seems that she had taken interest in Eco's pair of horns.

"This is not decoration..... It grew out from the head?"

"What if it is! This is my proof of being a Dragon!"

"Cute."

"Huh?"

"Very cute."

"I-Is it.....?"

Eco was probably shy and thus gave up on resisting. Lukka as if taking care of a baby, gently stroked Eco's horn. Halfway through that, Lukka suddenly came out with a ridiculous request.

"Can you give me your horns?"

Eco became transfixed in fear, but then it was followed by her expression of ferocity.

"What? Want me to give the my horns to you..... you're dreaming!"

"Can't you pull them down?"

"Pull them down! What do you think a dragon horn is!"

"Otherwise, I can taste it?"

"What? Taste?..... Hyaa!"

Eco gave an eccentric voice and then remained motionless.

Ash was also dumbfounded by what he was seeing.

Lukka hugged Eco from behind, then bit the horn on the head. The way she is tasting Eco's horn is like a small animal nibbling its owner.

"Ah..... don't bite my horn.....!"

Surprisingly, Eco didn't even resist, but she showed an exhausted expression and let her do whatever she wants. The seductive expression shown on her face made Ash's heart race. Apart from her face, even her limbs were with a vague hint of pink.

"W-What are you doing to a honorable and extraordinary dragon.....what are you doing W-Watch out or else I will trample you..... Ah, huff.....!"

Her cheeks were red, judging from her panting; perhaps she is trying her best to resist.

「だ、だめ……お、お願いだから、
もう許し……はうっ！」
ぶるっと全身を震わせ、
エーゴはあごをのけ反らせる。



"S-Stop..... P-Please spare me..... Awu!"

Eco's body shuddered and lifted her chin. Desperately trying to escape, she inadvertently bent her knees which lifted her skirt. The white cloth can be seen.

"-!"

Ash was dumbfounded but he quickly looked away. Although her position which makes others imagination run wild, but Eco who was under Lukka's control didn't realize that her panties were exposed.

Two girls were entangled in the coffin-like bed.

That sense will be a person's nose bleed. Anyway, who would have thought by biting her horn, she will become weak.....Ash concealed his surprise after finding out another Eco's weakness.

".....It really has the taste of a dragon."

Soon, Lukka was finally satisfied and she released Eco.

Eco seeing that chance, immediately jumped out of the coffin and hid behind Ash. She just stuck a face out and stared fiercely at Lukka. Looking like she was almost out of breath, it is as if she is a beast that lost her fight.

"Well..... I'll continue with my sleep."

Lukka is totally not bothered by Eco's sight. She comfortable lay herself flat in the coffin.

"You still want to sleep!"

Ash back to his sense grabbed Lukka's shoulder. Although he was shocked by how thin her shoulders are, but now is not the time to retreat.

"Rebecca-san is waiting at the Seventh Dragon House. I beg you, can you please immediately get ready? It is for you and Gawain."

"..... What are you going to do to my pal?"

Lukka's eyes soon become serious.

Ash nodded to her firmly and try to calm her down.

"Rest assure, we will not do anything bad to Gawain."

But rather I am a little worried that I'll be thrown up far away by Gawain.....
Ash silently added in his heart.

Lukka stare at ash's face for a good while. Then, she finally got up from the coffin.

".....Alright, I'll get ready right now."

"Thank you."

Ash who was relieved tried to express his gratitude to her-

However, Lukka without a warning put her hand on the button on her one-piece pajamas. Regardless of Ash's presence, she unbuttoned them one by one. From her collarbone to her chest area..... Her ceramic-like skin was exposed bit by bit.

"Wait a minute!"

Ash rushed to seize Lukka's on the shoulders. Lukka stopped what she was doing and looked at Ash face confusedly.

"What?"

It is wrong for her to look at my in the eyes..... Ash secretly groans. Her delicate and charming appearance, nearly has Ash entranced. Her facial features is like a doll, her amethyst-like eyes, pointed ears, and a delicate body that looks like it will disappear with just a touch and a vanilla-like fragrance..... It is like her everything is with a mysterious charm, as if something that does not belong to this world.

Ash forced himself to look away, and talk to her in a tone for disciplining children:

"I-I'll look aside, please hurry up and change, okay?"

Even though Lukka still looked confused, at least she understood his sincerity and gently nodded.

Ash was relieved and turned his back against Lukka. He caught a glimpse of Silvia still being taken care by Jessica from the corner of his eyes. At the same time, she was constantly reciting something like a curse.

"F-For someone to actually not know the princess..... which means..... My royal family's dignity must be strengthened....."

In addition, Eco behind Ash was furious.

"How dare she bite my precious dragon horn..... T-T-This is a great insult.....!"

Part 15

"..... I'm ready."

After hearing Lukka's voice, Ash took a deep breath.

From the time Ash heard the sound of the clothes rubbing against each other from his back, he unconsciously held his breath. It can be seen just how tense the situation is just now..

Moreover, Lukka who had stayed in her room for a long time didn't know what season it is right now. She started to wear her winter uniforms initially. Therefore some additional time was spent to put on her summer uniform.

Ash intently looked at Lukka who is now in her uniform.

The beauty of a yōsei together with the familiar uniform, with this combination, Lukka looked like the world's most delicate and charming girl.

"Hey..... where are you staring at?"

Eco who was finally back to her old self, angrily stared at Ash.

"Y-You mustn't misunderstand! I absolutely didn't look at her with a perverted thought!"

"..... Is it so?"

Ash who cannot stand Eco's condemnation, walked towards the door.

"Well, let's go. Rebecca-san and the rest are still waiting for us."

After hearing Ash's urging, Silvia also finally looked upwards.

Then, Lukka said something.

"..... You had stepped on it."

Lukka's sight was set on Ash's foot.

Ash confusedly looked down toward his foot-

"Uwa!"

In the end, he nearly jumped on the spot. His right foot had stepped on something. No matter how you look at it, it appears to be a girl's pantie.

A white pantie with pale-green stripes.

Opposite of the panicking Ash, Lukka gracefully stepped forward and picked it up. Then, she spread it out in front of Ash. Without hesitating, she lifts up a leg and put it in.

"-!"

The moment Lukka lifted her knee, the things under her skirt was almost seen. Ash was sweating in shocked. The school uniform skirt was originally designed to be short.

The next second, there was a murderous intend behind Ash.

"It appears..... Slaves that do not know how to behave have to be given punishment."

Eco's body was trembling.

"An enemy of all women must receive the sanctions of the hammer of death!"

Silvia swept away her previous depression and a raging fire was ignited behind.

"Please stop, that was unintentional!"

Ash's justification was in vain, Eco and Silvia were kicking with their might as well as giving him the iron fist.

"I'm going to crush you!"

"This is the family rules of the Lautreamont family!"

Part 16

"It's really strange; the experimental had obviously not yet begun..... how come you were badly bruised?"

Rebecca who was waiting at the Seventh Dragon House was stunned after seeing his condition which is like rags and asked him.

Behind Rebecca was Angela who was wearing a white robe and Max.

"Nothing important, err..... ah haha."

Ash can only use giggle. But Eco and Silvia were furious. Seeing their faces, Rebecca smiled.

"There is no need to act violence just because of being jealous..... why don't you two try to learn how to be more lady-like? If your personalities are so crude, then you must beware that Ash will be dragged on the bed by Jessica?"

Upon hearing Rebecca, Silvia reacted and her face became red hot.

"Dragged on the bed- how could the student council president gives dirty talks!"

"Haha. I just thought you now look a little more like a royal..... After seeing your useless appearance, Princess Veronica may soon come looking for you."

Silvia became pale and shut her mouth.

It is said that a horrible Ogre will capture disobedient kids - this type of stories has long been rumored in Ash hometown. But for Silvia, the Ogre is Veronica.

Angela finally spoke with a serious tone as if she is representing everyone:

"Rebecca-san has explained to me the whole incident. This challenge is consider to be foolhardy..... Are you ready for it Ash-san?"

Ash felt a chill for being looked through the spectacles. However, if he get scared just because of this, then will be unable to today's main objective.

Because the thing that Ash was going to challenge is nothing but the great Maestro.

"I'll will be alright."

"If it is so, then remember to put on your dragsuit! You still remember the rules for the dragon riding academy right?"

Angela with a rare teacher-like attitude reminded him. But Ash had no intention of wasting valuable time on changing clothes.

"Never mind it. I just want to try to have a conversation as a human with Gawain."

Part 17

The Seventh Dragon House is purpose-built for the use of the Maestro. At the same time, it is a sacred place in the campus. Even the building itself looks more luxury than the others dragons house. Judging by the appearance alone, it gave a feeling of a villa own by a noble.

Currently there are five Maestros at the Seventh Dragon House.

By rummaging the Ansarivan Academy's history, it was rare for the Seventh Dragon House to be this grand. It also indirectly proves just how unusual is the Maestro's existence.

Rebecca's Pal Cú Chulainn is the one who shines the most. It is as if it was only right to do so because it was sitting in the middle of the Seventh Dragon House.

Facing of the huge sacred body, one cannot help but became amazed. In contrast with that huge body, even large ceilings designed for an adult dragon feels low.

Apart from Cú Chulainn and Gawain, there Silvia's Lancelot and Max's Arianrhod is here. For Usher, these two Maestros can be considered as familiar faces. Incidentally, the vice president Pal was not present.

"Gawain is here."

Leaded by Angela Ash and the rest came to the innermost section of the dragon house.

Gawain was lying on the ground looking weak. Although its physical size is of a young dragon, but its silvery white fur is the proof of a Maestro. The dragon horn which looked like a stag is also quite unique and made it looked mighty. But perhaps it was weak, there was no majestic feeling.

Ash was worried about Gawain by just looking at it.

"Angela-sensei is there any hope... for a cure?"

"Right now, it's not sick. I think the cause of this is the link between it and Lukka-san had been broken off. As long as there is a supplement of Astral its spirit will be restored."

Ash was slightly reassured after hearing Angela's answer.

"Let's us begin now -"

Ash wanted to rush to Gawain, however ...

"Hold on, Ash."

Someone grabbed his shoulder from behind. After looking back, it turned out to be Rebecca.

"We'll let Lukka and Gawain meet first. Come here Lukka, say hello to Gawain."

Under Rebecca's urging, Lukka timidly stepped forward. But after a few steps, she stopped.

Surely, as an owner, she could touch its fur... Even when Ash thought so, but it seems that Lukka has no such intention. Perhaps after hiding herself for three months, there is probably a barrier between her and Gawain.

Or, could she have any better reason for not standing close to Gawain.....?

"Gawain..."

Upon hearing Lukka calling his name, Gawain coldly turned his head away and treated her like a stranger.

"Sure enough, there is no other way...."

Lukka was dejected and turned her back against Gawain. She can be seen crying and intended to run away.

"Stop! Lukka!"

But Silvia had blocked her path. Don't know whether she was angered by Gawain's attitude, Silvia pulled a long face.

"Listen clearly; the ideal relationship between humans and dragons is definitely not harmony, but the status itself. Lukka.... do you spoil Gawain in the past? From its attitude earlier, Gawain did not seem to treat you as its master. "

Lukka lowered her head without a word. After a long while she finally raised her head.

"Perhaps what you are saying is right... but to me... it is an important family member... I don't think that there is I need for a master-servant relationship...."

Silvia sighed.

"Me too. I love Lancelot as a family. Yet, it is because of love, so sometimes we need to be strict and discipline them. You musn't forget this."

"I'm..... going back."

After leaving this sentence, Lukka rushed out of the dragon house. Ash clearly sees the moment when she ran away, her eyes shed tears.

"I'll give it a try."

As if to sweep away the awkward atmosphere, this time, Ash had officially confronted Gawain.

Ignoring the gradually approaching Ash, Gawain remains motionless. It is because it doesn't acknowledge Ash? Or does it not have the strength to bother with Ash...?

Being anticipated and gazed by the crowds, Ash carefully prepared.

Gawain didn't seem to be on alert. This time should be an easy win.... Ash who was confidence made a leap.

Gawain was not equipped with a saddle. Like riding on a bare horse, Ash went up Gawain back. Because there were no reins, he can only cling to its neck to maintain his center of gravity.

"Alright, I will start....!"

At this moment, Gawain gave a fierce roar and was fierce resisting. Being shook vigorously, making Ash's body was sent flying out.

"Gawak.....!"

After being spun in mid-air, Ash abruptly fell to the ground. Even when he managed to make a roll to reduce the time of impact. But the strong impact made him feel suffocated. In between his back and his waist, the pain slowly spread.

Gawain who threw out Ash was lying down obediently.

"Ash!"

Rebecca and the arrived while looking miserable.

"I-I'm fine....."

Ash force himself to sit up. Although his pain had not yet disappeared, at least there was nothing abnormal with his bones. The grounds at the dragon house are soft, which is fortunate for him.

"Ahh, Ash-sama....! My Ash-sama is.....!"

"It is alright, it is alright. Please move aside."

Angela pushed the panicking Jessica to one side. With both hands she held Ash's cheeks and ask questions.

"Did you knock your head?"

"No.... my head is all right."

"Don't look down on me; I have a doctor's license. If you feel any pain or even uncomfortable, try to be honest and tell me!"

"Really..... so sensei have a doctor's license?"

"Only that it is a veterinarian's."

Ash revealed a bitter smile. Angela probably took a veterinarian license because she wants to study about the dragons.

After everyone knew that Ash was alright, the group of people become relieved.

"Sorry Ash, it was because of my ridiculous proposal...."

Rebecca revealed a rare dignified expression and apologizes to Ash. Which made Ash felt uneasy.

"W-What are you talking about! Challenging Gawain is entirely my own idea; Rebecca-san has done nothing wrong."

"In short, the experiment will end here. I cannot let you to continue to face the dangers."

"No, don't rush to conclusions! I have my triumph card too."

"Triumph card?"

"That's right. When I was dealing with the Necromancia I had failed again and again. Later I succeed with the use of the Ark."

Rebecca with a serious look crossed her arms.

"Hmm... I see. But Ash, as a student council president, I cannot allow you to continue to take the risks. As a teacher, Angela-san also could not permit it right?"

Being watched by Rebecca, Angela with a flirtatious smile replied:

"Me? I don't have any comment in this. I never get tired of seeing Eco creating the Ark!"

Angela's reply is nothing like what a teacher will say. But she was initially not a teacher but a researcher. Just because she wants the opportunity to encounter with Eco, only she became a teacher. So it is futile to have Angela acting like one.

"From sensei's personality, I'm not surprised for you to say such things.... have you decided yet, Ash?"

"Of course, I had decided to try again."

After Ash promised, Eco explode in anger.

"Wait a minute! Who allowed you to decide anything without my permission! Again, for me to create an Ark for such small... are you still sane!"

Ash lightly put his hand on the furious Eco's head.

"Hey, don't answer so quickly. What about if I treat you to vanilla crepes?"

"Hmph! I would not be bribed by those kinds of things!"

"Otherwise I'll add in a strawberry flavored."

"W-What are you joking about! What do you think you are taking an extraordinary dragon as!"

Although Eco didn't promised, but Ash can she that she was slightly moved through her eyes.

"Yeah, a new flavored crepe is going to be on sell! I remember that..... It is chocolate banana flavored?"

"Chocolate banana.....?"

Gulp. Ash can clearly hear Eco's swallowing her saliva.

The blow undoubtedly triggered Eco's curiosity and appetite.

"..... I have to tell you clearly, this is an exception!"

After struggling for a moment in her heart, Eco closed her eyes on the spot, and starts reciting her spells.

"Almete, Gorjal... Peto, Espaldar, Brafoneras, Faldaje... Escarcelas, Bufetas, Hombreras... Brazales, Codales... Antebrazos..."

Rebecca smile after seeing eco started reciting.

"Hehe. You are getting better in controlling!"

"T-This can't be considered as controlling!"

Ash felt embarrassed and his cheeks were red hot.

Part 18

"Manoplas... Quijotes, Guardas...Greas, Escarpes..."

Viagra incantation is about to enter its final stage.

This is the fourth time she had created the Ark and the way she chants felt a lot smoother. Perhaps she the experience that she had accumulated made her to be more skillful in her technique.

"-Espolón!"

After Eco finished her spell, a divine light filled their entire field of vision.

Followed by a thunderous bang.

Ash's body can be seen surrounded by gentle lights.

The 'Seikoku' on his left hand strangely became painful.

Until the dazzling light was lest glaring, Ash was in a silver Ark. This set of Ark is the same as the first Ark that Eco created when he fought the Necromancia.

Although it was an imitations rebuilt from the design that were passed down by the Dragons, it still consumed Eco's own magic to create the Ark.

"Ahh..... the genuine 'Silver Knight'!"

Jessica like a believer who had witnessed miracles from god was deeply moved.

"The hopes are on you, Ash."

Ash nodded to Rebecca who cheers for him.

By turning his back towards the crowd, he again was facing Gawain.

Just when Ash moved closer, Gawain gave a warning growl. It slowly climbed up from the ground to stand on all fours and fiercely stared Ash. It obviously was on guard against Ash who was equipped with the Ark.

"Don't be angry, I just want to have a talk with you alone."

Ash leaps. Since the Ark was constructed with a huge amount of magic, it had a variety of additional effects. That is why he can float in mid-air for some time.

Ash's jump had pass the normal height of a normal human and was gliding towards Gawain. Right at the moment, he believed that he can success for sure -

"Huh...!"

But Ash had landed on the ground. His sabotons had sunk into the soft land. The area he was standing at was the place where Gawain was resting previously.

"Disappea....r?"

Ash was stunned. He obviously thought that he had successfully landed on Gawain's back, but the big thing as if it can teleport had disappeared in a blink of an eye.

"Above you, Ash!"

Rebecca warning instantly brought him back to his sense.

He quickly looked up and saw Gawain. Gawain was clinging to the ceiling on all four with his head facing the ground. It is exactly like a bat.

Just at that moment, Gawain with a roar full of fighting spirit that shook the air around emitted a breath.

"-!"

Ash immediately crossed his arms into a defensive posture, but he was in the trajectory for the attack. Ash felt a strong pressure of wind and heat and was knocked back.

Ash only stopped fluting when he abruptly collides with the stone wall.

"Ah...Ark...!"

Ash was suffocating because his Ark cannot withstand this impact. Suddenly, he has a thought that he had broken into pieces. At the same time he knelled down, the Ark turned into particles of light and vanished...

"H-How is this possible!"

Just like sand, the Ark slipped passed his fingers. It is but only a mere hit, but the damaged is already more than what the Ark can withstand.

Ash had long ago heard in class about how destructive is the Dragon's Breath... Only until he had personally experienced, it was far more horrifying than what you can imagine.

Of course, it is clear that Gawain had shown some mercy.

If it really had the killing intends, let alone a mere dragon house, even the whole school can be turned into ashes.

If I'm no equipped with the Ark..... Ash shivered just by think about what will be going to happen next. "Damn!"

The frustrated Ash stare ruthlessly at Gawain.

Just like when the winner had been decided, Gawain landed on the ground lightly and lie down. But it seems to detect the hostility from Ash and looked at him coldly.

"Grrrrrrrrrr....."

And it did not forget to threat with its growl.

Ash leaned against the stone wall full of cold sweat.

"That arrogant attitude reminds me of somebody...."

Hearing the angry curse, Eco who arrived together with Rebecca and the rest immediately reacted.

"What did you say just now?"

With her crimson eyes staring at Ash even Gawain had to admit it's lost to those frightening eyes.

In the end, because of Ash lost terrible even when he was equipped with the Ark, the crowd can only dissolve. As for how to do to make Gawain accept Lukka- About this subject, Rebecca with a serious tone declared "A separate meeting will be held to discuss about it on another day."

Part 19

The student restaurant 'La Tene' was located in the campus.

It is a bungalow built with red bricks for its outer wall. The chimney is its signature features. The working days are only at weekdays, which start at half past eleven in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening. Whether it is about the dining table or chairs, all of them use the Chevron design, which gave an elegance feeling.

"Welcome to 'La Tene'!"

It is evening. Anya who became a restaurant waitress was busily working.

Currently 'La Tene' is just like the manager had said, it lacks of manpower. That is why Anya is busy until she had nearly no time to breath.

Even so, Anya did not forget her mission- collect intelligence. But also, she had used her waitress identity to collect useful intelligence from the conversation with the students.

Perhaps she should thank the manager for recommending her to be a waitress. If she had given the infield job that she had originally chosen, there may be no opportunity to come into contact with the students.

As the students here are all breeders, Anya had a little wariness in the beginning. But once she had actually come into contact with them, she found out that they are just ordinary teenagers.

- The peoples of the Knight's country are really unbearably vulgar.

Especially the boys. They seem to be very curious about Anya who had a foreigner's look and will actively take the initiative to talk with her. Among them, there are obviously guys who don't have a pure motive.

Anya skillfully uncovered intelligence from those guys.

Ash is a famous person.

None of those who talked to Anya didn't know about him.

Some praised him to be a wonder student who can easily ride Pal belongs to others. He was also criticized for being a problem student who caused trouble all day long.

There is also information that he recently received a strong support from Rebecca, the student council president.

But, about Ash saving the city by controlling the Necromancia and defeated 'Avdocha the Convict', all these students knew nothing about them.

Sure enough, the intelligence was controlled- Anya intuitively thought so.

It was probably interfered by the Academy's Council or the student council. Veronica should also have a thing or two to do with this.

On the other hand, there is also useful information.

It was said that Ash' Pal, young dragon Eco is not a normal dragon, but a delicate and charming girl. This is really unbelievable.

For a dragon to be born in a human gesture, it is unheard of.

However, since Ash himself is not a breeder who can be described with the normal logic, slowly, she didn't feel that it was really unbelievable. No, it should be said that.... who knows it is that young dragon called Eco is the key that is making Ash unique.

If she had the choice, Anya wanted to come into contact with Ash and Eco. Now, Anya as student restaurant waitress had fully blended into the

environment. Even when she made contact, Ash will not be wary about her.

The point is Ash had never entered 'La Tene'. Evidently he did not seem to have the habit to dine in 'La Tene'.

Part 20

After she asked the manager while pretending to have a chat, the manager said that among the regulars customers of 'La Tene' students from the middle class family had accounted for more than half of its customers.

Students from the upper class family usually go downtown to dine. As for those from the lower class family, they choose the dormitory restaurant where the food is the cheapest. Ash doesn't look like a person who comes from the upper class, so he should be from the latter one.

-Ding.....

At this time, the entrance bell rang.

After she saw the face of the guest when she turned back, Anya suddenly gasped.

"It is that guy....!"

The person in the doorway was none other than Ash Blake.

There is a beautiful girl in uniform standing beside him. At first glance they looked a bit like lovers - but the girl has a very fresh and refined beauty. Also there are circular stubs on her head. That's a unique horn of a young dragon.

The girl should be the Eco.... Anya secretly made her own speculation.

Part 21

On the way to 'La Tene', Eco's stomach had given out a thundering noise for three times and had frightened the students that passed by.

"That..... what is bad about eating in the dormitory restaurant? Not only that it is cheaper, but we also can eat until we are full...."

"I'm sorry! But I'm tired of eating the dormitory's food! Don't you know that just having a balance nutrient in the meals is not enough!"

"Haa..... it was said that dragons were foodies and it really is true."

Ash moaned and groaned when he recalled the contents of the basic class.

Opposite to the description of the barbarian-tic dragons from the foreign folk tales, dragons are artistic creature and cooking was also taken as a part of art.

Soon, Ash and eco had arrived at 'La Tene'. After Eco energetically opened the door, an appetizing smell is immediately felt by them.

"Wow! What nice smell...! When the school had such a nice restaurant, why do you not bring me here earlier?"

"You want me to go bankrupt! Today is an exception!"

While two men quarreling by the door, a waitress appeared. She was wearing 'La Tene's' signature maid attire.

"W-Welcome to 'La Tene'!"

The waitress seemed to be newly employed and looked extremely tense. She is full of a foreign air. Her tan skin, deep facial contour and her dark hair that was tied up at the back of her head.

"..... Nn?"

Usher frowned and carefully stare at the girl's face. As if he had seen her before.....?

"T-That...."

Just when the girl is a little reluctant and was muttering-

"Guwak!"

There was suddenly a sharp pain in Ash toes which made him jumped on the spot. It seems that it was Eco who had ruthlessly stepped on his foot.

"What are you doing!"

Eco was in a furious temper.

"Who ask you to be charmed by some female! Hey, the female over there! Why don't you hurry up a little to help us look for a place!"

"O-Okay!"

Ash sympathies the waitress who was given orders by the arrogant Eco.

Part 22

In contrary to Eco who was attentively studying the menu, Ash had long ago decided.

"That I want a plate of 'pasta with Allonne's oyster and mushroom'."

"'Pasta with Allonne's oyster and mushroom' is that right? Are there any other needs?"

"No, this is enough."

"Will you be full with this?"

As a boy, he really has a small appetite.... Anya poke her nose into his buisness.

"Huh?"

Ash with a puzzled expression looked at Anya. It seems that, he seems to be so surprised for Anya to be cordial when speaking to him.

"S-Sorry for being nosy....."

After Anya apologized for a number of times, Ash smile back.

"I don't really have much appetite today. I just have a duel with a dragon and I had suffered a crushing defeat...."

"Duel with s dragon? What's that about?"

When Anya curiously asked, Ash's face clearly stated the words I'm done for. He kept his mouth shut and refused to speak anymore. It s

Seems that it was likely a confidential project of the student council .

"N-Nothing..... this is very popular game recently. I'm just playing that game."

"Haha..... I also think so."



Even when Anya responded with a polite smile, she secretly thinks that this man really do not know how to tell a lie.

"I had decided for good!"

After Eco shouted, she stared at Anya. The pair of charming crimson eyes was reflecting Anya's face.

".....What would you like to order?"

"Two hundred and fifty grams of Chevron beef, lamb chops with herb, fried Allonne's oyster, a half boiled omelet, corn soup.... give me all this first for the time being."

"Huh?"

Anya suspected that she heard it wrong and stare at Eco's petite body.

"What is your reaction about! That's why I always said that humans are folly and ignorant being!"

"S-Sorry....."

At this moment, Ash spoke on Anya's behalf:

"Hey, Eco! Please so not bully the waitress! Besides..... can you finish this many things?"

Seeing Ash showing his owner like side, Anya started to admire him a little. However, not only Eco failed to calm down, but she also had gotten furious.

"You...! Today I had only eaten three meals! A dragon must eat five times a day! Don't you tell me you had forgotten!"

"Huh..... you only had eaten three meals today?"

"I will crush you! It is because of you wasting time on saving that dragon that cannot be saved!"

"S-Sorry...."

Seeing that Ash was going to be trampled anytime, Anya secretly sighed.

"Lukka & Maestro Gawain ~A.S.B. 1365.6~" is closed.

Chapter 3 - The Lakeside Vacation

Part 1

Danebury. It is one of the few commercial cities in Ansarivan.

In this town which is heavily fortified, many trade guilds from different countries can be seen. All the businessmen were doing their best to sell their

goods. Just not to get fooled by this peaceful town, this town can adept to many changes.

Danebury is also a place famous for its name 'Pot of different races'. No one will even bother with Anya who is of a Tantalos tribe when she was walking on the streets. There were many stalls by the road side and they were trying to sell their goods ranging from fruits to flowers to spices.

"This street is as busy as ever."

Anya murmured in a low voice and continued to move towards her destination.

From the street, she turned into an alley. Then she continued to walk forward.

Until the point where there was not even a soul around her, Anya arrived at a building made from bricks- which was also the gathering point. Anya entered through the main door and walked up the stairs.

At the end of the corridor on the third floor, there was a door with a "Rosetta's Business Firm" sign hanging on it.

That was the gathering point operated by the Zepharos Empire for spying activity in the Knight Country.

"It's Anya. I've returned."

"You may enter."

Even though the voice from behind the door was by that of a young guy, but the feeling it gave was of a fully matured man.

"Sorry for intruding."

Anya put on a calm act upon entering to hide her happiness.

In the room which was used as the office, Milgauss was sitting on a chair leisurely. There were no other souls in that room. The fact that they were alone made Anya nervous.

Milgauss, who glanced at Anya, was again wearing his silver mask. His hair, silver with a few strands of dark red, will definitely catch the attention of others even in this 'Pot of different races' Danebury city.

"It has been a while, Anya."

"Yes, Milgauss-sama."

A few days before, Milgauss had returned to the Empire, because he had to give a report about the Necromancia experiment to the higher ups.

Milgauss's superior was Klaus, count of the Viderhausen borderland. Anya had not seen him before. If you hear the title "Count of a borderland", it will always give the impression of an old man - but Klaus was a noble only in his twenties.

"I had received your report. You have managed to infiltrate the academy, right?"

"Yes. I'm currently investigating the boy who defeated the Necromancia. This is the report."

Anya walked towards the table and carefully took out the documents that were kept in her bag.

Because that the time she spent working in 'La Tene' is still short, the intelligence that she had gathered was very very little. But Milgauss still read it carefully, which made Anya happy.

After a few moments, Milgauss has looked up from the document.

"Thanks for your hard work. Please continue with the job."

"Understood. I'll investigate Ash Blake and young dragon Eco next. Three days from now they will take part in the Selective Training Camp, I'll be going there as a staff member in charge of the food."

"The Selective Training Camp?... So that season has already arrived."

Anya was surprised, since the way Milgauss spoke was as if he was remembering something from his past.

"This year, will it be again held at the Allonnes Lakeside?"

"That's what I heard."

While Anya was confused thinking "why did he ask about that?", Milgauss continued to ask her.

"Do you know about the Willingham Mausoleum?"

"If I remember correctly... I think it is a mausoleum located not far away from the Allonnes Lakeside. I'm not sure about the details."

"That is a special mausoleum. Only dragons that died young are enshrined there."

"But why only young dragons?"

Anya asked while feeling a cold chill at her back.

"This will need to go back to the history of the beginning of Saint's calendar. During that time, the dragons faced a crisis with their youngs dying and they had to solve that problem regarding to the extinction of their species. As a result, they created the wise dragon's magic Albion... The Willingham Mausoleum was built at about that time. After that, it became a tradition to bury the young dragons there."

Today is year 1365 in the A.S.B calendar.^[8] What Milgauss had said was a story from an ancient time.

"You are really very knowledgeable!"

"This is just general knowledge."

Anya was embarrassed. She was afraid that Milgauss will look down on her because she hadn't studied much. Milgauss hadn't noticed the change in her expression and continued to speak:

"And if we speak about young dragons, we lack experimental data on them."

"Are you suggesting that..."

Anya who realized Milgauss plan was trembling in fear.

"That's right. The Empire is awaiting the day we can use Necromancia. That is why we need a more complete information."

Milgauss intended to use the ashes of the young dragons for experimenting. To summon a Necromancia, the bones and ashes of a dragon is a must.

In reality, Anya hated the Necromancia. She couldn't accept the existence of those things moreover they were going to use the ashes of a young dragon. Her hair were already standing on end by just thinking about that.

But, Milgauss had already decided, and she must support him to the end.

Anya killed her own feelings in preparations for the next battle.

Part 2

After Anya left the room, Milgauss again took the report.

The report is full of information about the young dragon Eco that Anya had collected. Even though the data was not yet complete, but Milgauss immediately found a hidden clue.

"So you are born... Descendant of Avalon..."

"Kuhu..." The sound of laughter came out from deep in his throat. The kind of laugh he'll never show in front of Anya. A negative feeling of love and hatred is spreading in his heart.

"Anyway, is her name 'Eco'?... I don't know if this was on purpose or by fate, that's quite an ironic name her master had given her. But-"

Milgauss placed the report back on the table and looked outside of the window.

"It is still far better than to get killed by your own master. Don't you think so too, Julius?"

Part 3

In the end, the first day for the selective training camp had arrived before Lukka's and Gawain's problem had been settled.

At the time the sun rises, the selected fifty-one riders left the school while being sent off by the remaining students.

When the students riding different types of dragons appeared at the main streets, the residents gave loud cheers.

To see the top students off is a must-held activity every year in this season. Even the sun that is high up in the sky was wishing them good luck with its bright rays.

After leaving the walls of the town, the students followed the instruction of their instructor and were separated into three groups.

Because the coming paths will be chosen according to the types of dragons.

The Maestros and Stradas will take the sky path, the Asias will take the land path and the Hydras will take the waterway.

On the other hand, the 'La Tene's' staff who were in charge of the food had already left. Cosette is also one of them. She had volunteered to become a staff, so it is a rare sight that do is going separately from Silvia.

Followed by the Stradas' group who spread their wings, the Asias' group who move in the streets with dust leaving behind them and the hydras' group who were playing in the water, each of the groups were lead by a professor who was an instructor for the practical skills.

Only the Student Council members and their Pal were not bothered by the groupings. They still remained standing in front of the town walls.

Part 4

"Right... Now is the time for us to decide who is going to give Ash, Eco and Lukka a ride."

Rebecca who already wore the personal dragsuit for the student council president announced.

Ash, Eco and Lukka were unable to go the location of the training camp on their own.

"Of course that Ash-sama is going to follow me-"

Jessica who now had a rosy coloured cheeks volunteered herself. But after a few seconds, her Pal Rhiannon suddenly moved.

"Wait...Rhiannon what's wrong with you?"

Rhiannon didn't listen to its master's orders and was running towards the river twenty meters away. Even though a Hydra can move on land but they can only show their true ability in the waters. It was probably because it felt jumpy after being on land for a long time.

"S-Stop! Are you trying to disobey your master's order."

Too bad for her, Rhiannon wasn't listening to its master's orders. Moving its huge python-like body it arrived at the river in the blink of an eye. Not only that, it used its mouth to carry Jessica who was chasing it by her belt and started swimming.

Jessica who was now in mid-air turned to look at Ash and said:

"My dear Ash-sama, I'll be waiting for you at the Allonnes Lakeside-"

Rhiannon was swimming freely. Because it swam quickly, they disappeared at the far end before Jessica was able to finish with her sentence.

"Is that Jessica's pal...? Its behavior is exactly like a duplicate of its master."

Ash said while smiling.

"In the end they were just doing a comedy act."

Rebecca was stunned when she saw her pitiful childhood friend depart.

"Lets us not be bothered by that, kaichou^[9]. If we do not quickly depart, the rest of the students will start to wonder. Logically speaking, we should be the ones who are going to check the attendance."

Rebecca agreed with what Max had said.

"Understood. So... Lukka, do you have anyone that you wanted to ride with."

Even though Lukka had already changed into her dragsuit, she had not spoken since she departed from the school. Even at this moment, she was

looking down and depressed. Her Yōsei-liked beauty comes with a feeling that it will disappear anytime like a bubble popping.

Gawain as the culprit was not even bothering Lukka who was down. It was lying down on the ground with a worrisome expression. Ash initially thought that Gawain who had its Astral cut off won't be able to take part in this Selective Training Camp, but it was said that the Allonnes Lakeside had been a rest spot for the dragons since ancient times.

So, the reason that Gawain is willing to take part in this Training Camp is to prolong its lifespan... Ash personally thought so.

"Lukka, if you remained silent, how am I to know what you are thinking?"

After Rebecca looked at her face, Lukka reluctantly replied:

"I knew it... Since I was unable to ride on Gawain, there is no point for me to take part in this Selective training camp."

"You're absolutely correct about it."

Ash gasped after he heard what Rebecca had said. As far as he knew, this is the first time Rebecca was mean to Lukka.

"Anyway, if you still continue to be the current you, the training camp will end meaninglessly for you."

"If it is so... why do you still insist that I go with you?"

"The point is not whether it is meaningful or not."

"Hu???"

"In reality, not matter if it is your birth, you being an Eckbald, becoming a breeder or becoming a dragner, there was never a meaning behind them. Those were just add-ons by humans later on."

Lukka slowly lifted her head and looked at Rebecca's stare.

"Your point is... It is all down to me?"

"Great. You have known this for quite a long time right?"

Rebecca finally smiled, and gently patted Lukka's head. Even though Lukka still had a worrisome look on her, but at least she had made up her mind. She can be seen pulling Rebecca's sleeve.

"I want to follow Rebecca."

"Alright, I'll be responsible to give Lukka a ride to Allonnes Lakeside. Next will be the problem concerning Ash and Eco."

Part 5

Silvia's heart skipped a beat when she heard what Rebecca had said.

She was troubled by her own feelings. Why do I feel excited? Does that mean that I hope to ride on the same dragon with Ash....?

-Ash Blake.

He is an incredible guy.

He hadn't spoken much to Silvia in the three years of his basic class years. That is because Silvia didn't had the intention to befriend anyone. The only thing that she did was keeping on reminding herself, to become a great dragner, she herself must study hard. She didn't even try to approach anyone and didn't even think that it was necessary.

But, Ash had invaded Silvia's enclosed life. After the dragon riding festival's competition and the Necromancia's attack, they are now comrades in the student council.

Also, there was the church's terrorist incident.... Even though that was a farce planned by Veronica, Ash was still the center of spotlight when that incident happened and had an eye catching excellent performance there.

"..."

Silvia's cheeks unavoidably turned red when she tried to recall the events

When the hostages were freed, Ash approached Silvia. During that time, because Silvia had released all the stress that had built-up after she was freed, she doesn't even have the strength to stand straight. Luckily, Ash supported her by her arm and also piggybacked her back to the academy.

Somehow, Ash's back made Silvia feel nostalgic.

Nine years ago- Silvia encountered a guy from the 'Orphan Ceremony'.

Not only that he saved Silvia, but he also gave Silvia the opportunity to become Lancelot's master. Strictly speaking, it was the guy who refused

the chance to become Lancelot's master and handed over the responsibility to Silvia.

To Silvia, she was heavily in debt to that guy.

But, after the 'Orphan Ceremony' ended, Silvia had lost contact with that guy. Because that the guy gave away his opportunity to become Lancelot's master, he also lost the chance to become a breeder and will go back to his village empty handed.

The Princess of the Knight's Royal Family and the village boy.

Logically speaking, they won't have the chance to meet each other again for the rest of their life.

Still... Somehow, Ash's back had a similar smell with that guy.

But of course this could be Silvia's mistake. Anyway, that incident happened nine years ago. It is probably Silvia who projected the image of that guy on to Ash.

Furthermore, that guy wouldn't even be in Ansarivan.

Before parting, the last words that the guy told Silvia were:

-You must work hard in my place in order to become a great dragner.

Because of he no longer had the chance to become a dragner, that guy entrusted his wish on Silvia.

In another words, that guy can never be Ash.

"Are you alright... Princess-sama?"

Ash's concerned words made Silvia sweep away her thoughts.

Somehow, Ash peeped at Silvia's face. Ash who was now in his dragsuit looked totally different from his usual self. Not only that he looked full of spirit, but he also doesn't seem like he matches the title 'Number One Problem Child in the academy'.

"N-Nothing! I'm alright!"

Silvia kept on shaking her hand to emphasize that she is alright. Ash was confused at first but then started to ask Silvia seriously.

"So, do you allow Lancelot to give anyone a ride?"

"Err..."

Silvia was caught off guard for a little moment... The 'So' he said was made from what conclusion? It seems that when she let her thoughts wonder, they had already made the decision.

From the way he said it, it had been decided that he is going to ride with Silvia.

She felt an amazing feeling from the depth of her heart.

-H-How is this possible...! It is just a ride, but why would I have such a feeling? A-Am I-I h-happy about it? Does riding together with Ash make me happy!? I'll never admit this...! I'll never ever admit this...!

Looking at Silvia anxious looks, Ash continued to ask:

"Princess-sama, are you not feeling well?"

"I-I'm fine alright!"

Silvia cleared her throat with a cough. She must first calm down her emotions.

"B-But because there is a rule in the Lautreamont family's rules stated that 'boy and girls must not ride together after seven'. Even though our relationship is quite intimate- no, no, our relationship cannot be considered intimate... But, for us to ride together to Allonnes Lakeside... I-It is actually a little bit difficult for me."

"What were you mumbling about? Do you hate to ride together that much?"

Ash was staring at Silvia, looking surprised.

"I-It is not that I hate it...."

"So you are basically saying that you allowed it. Lancelot is good at accelerating, so holding on tight to Princess-sama is a must for safety reasons."

"What...!"

Silvia almost had her head explode with the thought of Ash holding on to her waist.

"Hey, Ash... Are you trying to ride with me with those kinds of indecent thoughts?"

"Hu? What are you talking about? If you don't hold on tight during the ride, it is the same as toying with your own life."

Silvia's lifted her angry and trembling fist in front of her chest and declared to Ash.

"Why don't I... let you disappear from this world right now!!!"

"Huh??"

Ash was knocked back after a iron punch at the chin. He made a beautiful curve in midair and landed with a thump. Because of his dragsuit, he didn't feel much pain.

Rebecca, Max and Eco were stunned while watching Ash standing up shakily.

"Why did you punch me...? The person who is going to ride with Princess-sama is Eco?"

"What!"

With a 'crack'... The time had frozen.

In this moment, Silvia realized that she had misunderstood.

To put it bluntly, the person who is going to ride with Silvia is Eco. As for Ash, he asked Max to let Arianrhod give him a ride- This should be the conclusion made. It is more comfortable for the people of the same gender to ride together.

Silvia's body was heated up by her embarrassment. She wished for a cave to hide into.

"Baka! ^[10] Why didn't you mention it earlier!"

Part 6

The dragon who led the flight was Cú Chulainn and was followed by Arianrhod. Lukka is with Rebecca while Ash was with Max.

Gawain was the next to leave. It is probably because it does not receive any Astral, there isn't a single hint of haki^[11] from it. Even when Allonnes

Lakeside is a rest spot, but with it looking like a living dead, bringing it along felt like a torture for it.

"Alright, it's our turn now!"

Silvia turned back and look at Eco.

"I'll sit on the dragon first and you shall sit at the back. You mustn't let loosen your grip from my waist, it is dangerous."

"Understood."

Eco obediently nodded in reply.

Silvia with a simple leap landed on Lancelot. After she held the leather reins, she felt refreshed.

"Come on, Eco!"

Her left hand left her grips on the reins and stretch towards Eco.

At this moment, a strange thing happened. Lancelot was as if to make it easy for Eco to get on the saddle, automatically knelled down. Not only that, it also lower its head respectfully in front of Eco.

"Lancelot...?"

Silvia was confused. Lancelot's behavior right now is as if a servant serving its master. Even when it is Silvia who is its master, she had never received a treatment as classy as this. The incident that was happening now was shocking enough.

After Silvia pulled Eco onto Lancelot, she asked:

"...It seems that Lancelot respect you a lot. Do you know why?"

After Eco sat behind Silvia, she answered with a confused tone:

"For heaven's sake... I don't know anything. But as far as I can see, since it respected me, I'll generously praise it as a smart dragon.

Eco exposed a proud expression.

"Grrrrunn..."

After receiving Eco's praise, Lancelot came out with a cute voice.

"H-Hey! You are not allowed to make that sound to anyone except me! You are Silvia Lautreamont, my pal! Quickly make a brave voice!"

Silvia scolded it sternly and gave it a light kick in its tummy. Lancelot was in a shock and quickly spreaded its wing and flew.

Part 7

In a blink of an eye, the groups of Maestros were a hundred meters above the ground.

"Uuh... this scenery is one that you'll never get bored of."

Silvia said happily.

At the center of the endless plains, Ansarivan is like a beautiful model. The streets for the dragon riding festival's competition and Fianna Forest can be seen together.

The Strada's groups lead by the instructors were some distance away and look like a pea. Although with the true ability of a Maestro they could pass them in a moment, Rebecca still purposely remain at a low speed. The reason is probably she didn't want the rest of the students to find out about Lukka and Gawain. Even though it is going to spread sooner or later, but the fact that Lukka couldn't ride her pal still remain a secret.

"Listen carefully! You must never loosen your grip!"

Silvia reminded Eco while looking at the front.

Everybody was wearing their hardy dragsuit but only Eco who was in her uniform. Maybe she took this activity as a field trip.

But, Eco suddenly felt down.

"What's wrong with you?"

Silvia was worried about Eco's condition. But what she received was an even confusing answer.

"Why is yours this big?"

Silvia didn't understand what she meant.

"Big..? What were you talking about?"

Eco suddenly emits a killing intend, which frightened Silvia.

"I'm talking about your breast! Why are yours and Rebecca's this big?"

"T-This is too sudden! So you are also worrying about these stuffs?"

Silvia was stunned. Even though Eco always stated that 'honorable and extraordinary dragons', she still faced a human-liked trouble.

"That's because of Ash... Sometimes, he will either stare at yours or Rebecca's breast. I'm really unhappy about it. Even though I still don't know the reasons yet..."

"What did you say!?"

Silvia was almost infected by eco's anger, but she managed to control herself. They were now in the middle of a flight and had unconsciously reached a two hundred meters height. She mustn't loose her cool here.

"Even when that fellow likes to look at breasts... He wouldn't even be bothered by mine. Why was this happening?! I can't accept this!"

"T-That's because..."

Silvia was in lack of vocabulary to use. Anyway, she knew next to nothing about a guy's thinking. That's why she was unable to answer Eco.

-Back to the topic... Ash looked at my breast?"

Silvia's cheeks became hot.

Although she was angry at his behavior, on the other hand, she doesn't really hate it. She was also surprised and confused that she felt contradicted.

No, not only she doesn't have the feeling of repulsion, in fact...

-Stop! What am I think about!

When Silvia was struggling within herself, Eco suddenly demanded something outrageous.

"W-What are you thinking about! How could I ever agree with that!"

"Even when you reject it verbally, your defense is full of holes!"

Eco squeezed her hand under the both sides of Silvia's armpits and Silvia's muscles suddenly have a shock. Eco was right; Silvia who was now in control of the reins has zero protection as far as she can see.

"S-Stop- Ahh..."

Eco was toying with Silvia's breasts through her dragsuit with her tiny hands. She was as innocent as a child who was playing with a newly received toy.



"It's soft! "It's really soft! There must have been magic on this that can charm a male animal!"

"Y-You are just thinking too much! Wait... Aah...!"

Eco was playing with Silvia's breast just like making pasta without holding herself back. This had made her lose her strength to hold the reins.

"Have you had enough of this already! You better be careful of your mischief... or else I'll push you down!!!"

Lancelot kept on moving upwards and had reached the three hundred meters altitude. Eco's face turned pale after she peeked downwards.

"Alright... alright..."

Eco who was scared by the height reluctantly let go of Silvia's breasts.

Part 8

The Allonnes Lake is the lake with the biggest surface area in the Knight Country.

It is the place where they produce ayu and funa. ^[12]

On the other hand, the forest surrounding the lake is also known as Norg Forrest. The wild plants there contain a high amount of Astral. It is also well know as a rest spot for dragons.

There are many villas that can be seen scattering around the lakeside. But the most striking one was no other than the facility for the training camp owned by the dragon riding academy.

Even though it looked like an old building from the outside, it still has a huge dragon house. The dragon house here has enough rooms for about sixty dragons. It looked magnificent just by it sheer size.

Also, a little distance away from the lakeside is a hill, which at the same time it the location of the ancient mausoleum.

Every scholars specialise in dragons will know that that is the Willingham Mausoleum.

Part 9

The first to arrive at the lakeside were the strada's group and the maestro's group. The one way journey took about three hours. The riders slowly entered the training campsite and waited comfortably for the other groups to arrive.

The staffs at the training campsite which include Angela and the lectures and the waiters who arrived earlier welcomed Ash and the rest with a big smile. Cosette was wearing a royal standard maid attire while serving the drinks to the students.

The next to arrive was the hydra's group. They were slower than those who used the sky paths by two hours. Jessica who escaped from Rhiannon's clutches kept on hugging Ash after she had entered the restaurant.

The last to arrive were the Asia's group. They slowly arrived around four hours later after those who used the sky paths had arrived.

Rebecca who acted as the master of ceremony stood up and glanced at the students.

"I'm the student council president Rebecca Randall. I'm happy that there was no accident that had happened and everyone had arrived here safely."

Logically speaking, this speech should be given by a lecturer, but they were sitting at a corner drinking their tea. They clearly knew that they do not have the influence that Rebecca possessed so they just let it be.

"Listen carefully. This Selective Training Camp is not a place to gather the entire good student to do activities together. After graduation, everyone will start working in their own field. As long as you have the experience in taking part in this camp, you will be seen differently everywhere. For example, every member of the famous Holy-Dragners of Lautreamont had left a good result in the Selective Training Camp. If there were to be any students who wanted to join the Dragners, you mustn't feel complacent just because you had been chosen to join this selective training camp. I hoped that every person here joins with the spirit to win."

All the student gave full attention to Rebecca's talk.

Ash who had never thought about his future suddenly felt that the atmosphere around him had become tense and felt himself missing out.

-Everyone's so hardworking....

Ash who was different from those who worked hard to join the Selective Training Camp managed to be at here right now is thanks to Rebecca's personal opinion.

To put it bluntly, Ash still haven't feel the excitement for the training camp.

"So... for all the students, please have sufficient rest for today for tomorrow's special training.

Until here, Rebecca suddenly showed a mischievous smile.

"That being said... But, we will still let you all some time to enjoy the lake for relaxation.

After a short silent, the restaurant was drowned in the sound of cheers.

Part 10

Under the bright sun, the student gathered at the lakeside full of spirits. Because that had departed from the academy early, there is still ample time for them to have fun before the sun sets.

Although Ash didn't bring his swimming wear with him, he still never regretted that. It is because he never had the intention to have fun in the water.

If he change into his swimming wear, his 'Seikoku' on his left hand will be exposed and going into the water with the bandages on doesn't look natural at all.

Ash changed into his casual wears which include his t-shirt, shorts and sandals sitting by the lakeside leisurely.

There weren't anybody from the student council that came into his view. Max as usual was back into his crazy neat freak illness and was cleaning the room. From his situation, it is a wonder if he could finish it before evening.

Lukka who was a shut-in had herself hid inside her own room. Gawain was not in the dragon house but was sleeping in the Norg Forrest that surrounds the lake to recover some astral.

As for Rebecca, Silvia, Jessica, and Eco should be still changing in the changing room. Cosette did prepare a swimming suit for Eco and Ash was thankful for her to be this understanding.

"Ash-samaaaaaa."

At this moment, a huge hydra appeared with a big splash.

It seems that it was Rhiannon. From its neck to its head is in a curve shape which made it looked more like a snake than a dragon.

Needless to say, the person on its head was Jessica. She was wearing a cute orange coloured bikini.

It was not surprising that Jessica would bring her pal along with her. When the academy's students were playing with water, the Hydras were the most active in it. When one by one the riders of the hydras appeared on the lake, sounds of cheers could be heard.

"J-Jessica..?"

Ash became nervous while standing in front of Jessica, he just don't know where to look at. Even when Jessica's attitude had always been daring, she still has a nice body. In front of her cleavage, upper arms, hips... and soft tender skin, Ash gulped.

"Ara, Ash-sama you didn't bring your swimming wear with you?"

"Err...I'm not in the mood for swimming..."

"How could you do that! It is our honeymoon!"

"Why would a decent activity become a honeymoon! And I'm not even married to you!"

"Haa... Your indifference attitude is so charming. Come, hold my hand and together we will challenge the sea! Our sea adventure is going to start!"

"I think that you had mistaken! This is a lake and not a sea!"

"That won't be a problem! Rhiannon! Go and fetch me Ash-sama!"

After Rhiannon roared, it clumsily lifted Ash by his collar.

"Hu... Uwaaaaa!"

Ash, hanging in midair was forcefully brought to the middle of the lake.

Inside the girl's changing room of the training camp, Silvia was stunned.

It is because of Cosette acted naturally when she handed her her swimming wear. The design was too much of an exaggeration. The colour is blue which is Silvia's favourite.

But, hold on. There is too little fabric on this swimming wear.

"....Cosette, are you sure you want me to wear this swimming wear? You know, I'm- Silvia Lautreamont, the proud fourth princess of the Knight's family!"

"Of course, princess-sama."

Cosette just revealed a big smile as if she is not going to prepare another swimming wear. No, it should be said that she only prepared this for her.

On the other hand, Eco had changed into a cute swimming wear.

"So... I see this is a swimming suit. This is my first time wearing one!"

Eco was excitedly looking at her own looks in her swimming wear. It is a swimming suit that uses white colour as a base with cute ribbons as decorations. If there is such a swimming suit, why did you not prepare the same one for me... Silvia glared while complaining at Cosette.



"I think that this swimming wear suits you well, what do you think about it Eco?"

"You really have some good perception at looking at beautiful things, which can satisfy a dragon! You are really good!"

"It's my pleasure."

Cosette bowed gracefully. Right in front of her, Rebecca who had changed into her deep red coloured bikini was with a mischievous smile.

"Anything wrong, have you not finished changing yet Silvia?"

"R-Right..."

Silvia was confident in her body but compared to Rebecca she felt depressed. For Silvia who was still growing, Rebecca's body can only be described with the word perfect. The dark red coloured bikini suits her well which made Silvia clench her teeth.

In front of a girl who had such a nice body, any boy would have fallen for her. Ash also must have been...

-Stop, stop, why would Ash appear at such a time.

Silvia immediately shook her head.

Rebecca spoke to her with a mischievous smile:

"Be quick, Silvia! I'll be leaving first!"

Eco too had followed Rebecca from behind.

The only ones left in the changing room were Silvia and Cosette.

"Alright. Please be quick princess-sama. I beg your forgiveness... If you are still worrying about anything, please pardon my rudeness by forcing you to change."

"I think that... You are not even afraid of anything, no? Aren't you even enjoying this...?"

"Ara, so I have been found out. Ufufufu."

Cosette took a step forward after a dangerous laugh.

She had the eyes of a hunter who had locked on its prey.

Part 12

At the lakeside, Rebecca was sitting on a beach chaise with her sunglasses. She looked classy with a wine glass in on hand while enjoying her environment leisurely.

"T-To be able to watch the president in her swimming wear, we are just too lucky."

The guys immediately revealed their perverted behavior. Even though they were the top students, they were still guys in their teens. Silvia gave an insulting looks at the perverted guys and walked to the lakeside. She embarrassly turned back and asked Cosette about her opinion.

"Hey... Cosette, do I really... Doesn't it look weird?"



「とてもお似合いですわ」
「そ……そうか？」

湖から吹いてくるそよ風のせいで、
肌がすうすうして、落ち着かない。
ちょっと油断すると、布地がお尻の肉に
食いこんでくるのも気がかりだった。

"It suits you well!"

"D-Does it?"

The breeze from the lake made Silvia feel cold and also made it hard to calm her emotions down. Furthermore, there was the feeling of her swimming wear getting stuck in between her butt if she was careless which made her nervous. Of course this is also the first time where she was wearing such dressing in front of the crowds.

Cosette suddenly whispered to her.

"Rest assure, Ash-sama will be happy with this."

"W-W-Why must you mention ash!"

Silvia angrily glared. At this moment, there was a ruckus among the guys.

"Princess-sama had arrived!"

"What a sexy bikini!"

"I... can die happy...!"

Silvia became nervous. She felt that her body was trampled on by their sights.

"Hey, Cosette! Give me something to cover my body, whether it is a towel or a shirt!"

"If you don't mind my apron, I could lend it to you."

"How could a princess of a country wear such a thing!"

"I personally think that the combination of an apron and bikini not only will amaze the others, but will also be interesting."

"What are you joking about!"

Silvia wanted to immediately return to the training camp. Anyway, it is unnecessary for her to accompany those excited students. She should have stayed in her room quietly with Lukka and Max.

At this moment, a desperate scream could be heard all over the lake.

"Uwaaaa! I beg you... please stop!"

Silvia immediately knew that it was Ash's voice.

She doesn't know the reason why she could recognize Ash's voice at the first moment.

"Ohohoho! Rhiannon's ability is not limited to this only, Ash-sama!"

Hydra Rhiannon was surfing on the lake at high speed. And the people on its back is none other than Jessica and Ash.

"...!"

Just when Silvia was still confused about her own feelings-

"Grrrrroooooo...!"

Lancelot followed by a roar landed by the lakeside. The air pressure had lifted the dust.

The most unbelievable thing was, the person riding on its back was Eco. Under the condition where Silvia was not present, Lancelot unexpectedly let Eco rides on its back willingly.

"H-How is this possible!"

Silvia couldn't believe her own eyes and shouted.

Eco in her swimming wear was holding the reins while smiling. After she spotted Silvia, she said:

"I'll be borrowing your pal for a while!"

Silvia immediately rushed forward.

"Hold on, Eco! How come... You are riding on Lancelot!"

"I had enough of that girl called Jessica! Damn, even when Ash is my meat slave!"

Looking at Jessica who was playing happily at the middle of the lake, Eco clenched her teeth.

"To go against Jessica, I must have a hydra. But the only breeder who has a hydra in the student council is only Jessica. Then, I thought of something. A maestro can move freely in sea, land or air!"

"Even though what you were saying was right... I'm still surprised that Lancelot is willing to give you a ride. Hey, Lancelot! What the big idea!

After being scolded by Silvia, Lancelot reacted with lowering down its head. This was the first time Silvia saw Lancelot behaving like this.

It was normally a ferocious, classy maestro who matches up with Silvia...

"So, what are you going to do?"

Silvia was stunned by Eco's question.

"I want to let Jessica taste some bitterness. Are you with me? Or you don't?"

Eco's red eyes were looking at Silvia from high up.

Silvia didn't expect Eco to invite her. It is probably the three hours journey together made their relationship closer. Or else, she is treating me as a rival. Wait, a rival in what sense-?

Seeing Silvia still couldn't make up her mind, Eco impatiently provoked:

"Hey! If you still couldn't make your decision, I'll be leaving you!"

These words gave her a little push.

Silvia had given up in thinking about those troublesome questions.

The sun was shining brightly in the sky. The beautiful Allonnes lake is right in front of her and the student whom had changed into their colorful swimming wear.

In the corner of her eyes, Ash can be seen playing with Jessica on the back of the hydra.

In this case, there is only one thing to do.

"C-Count me in!"

Silvia with much effort managed to say those words and she jumped onto Lancelot. She received the reins from Eco and immediately ordered Lancelot to take flight.

Seeing that Silvia decided to join the fun in the water, there was a loud cheer around the beach.

"Playing with Water ~A.S.B. ~1365.6~" is closed.

Chapter 4 - The Battle at Willingham Mausoleum

Part 1

During the midnight, Ash slowly sat up.

"It hurtssss..."

Because of the pain in his joints, he can't have a good sleep. It is because that he was playing in the waters during the day.

Silvia and Eco were riding on Lancelot.

Jessica was riding on Rhiannon.

Without any warning, a normal fun on the waters had turned into a two side's battle field of 'Fighting for Ash'. If they really wanted to play something, Ash hoped that it would be a more peaceful game.

But the swimming wear that Eco and Silvia wore was deeply engraved in Ash's mind.

Eco was wearing a white swimming suit which brings out her cute self. Even though her body is still far from perfect, there are still guys who are sure to fall for her innocent self. Although her true ruthless attitude will be exposed when she speak...

On the other hand, Silvia was wearing a sexy bikini. Ash was going to have a nose bleed just by thinking about it. For sure it was not Silvia who chooses a bikini that exposes that much of skin, but Cosette who was the culprit who force it on her.

Ash quickly removes all this troubles from his mind and left his bed.

The bedroom in the training camp is a twin sharing bedroom. Max was sleeping soundly at the bed beside. Eco was not in the room. It is because the neat freak Max said that 'sharing a room with a girl is illogical', so Eco was taken care by the other girls.

Logically speaking, since it was Cosette, there should not be a reason for him to worry... But Ash had been together with Eco for a long time. Once Eco is not beside him, he felt uneasy as if a part of his heart is missing.

"Can't... I really can't sleep."

Ash sighed, and slowly stood up. Then, he left the room and wanted to ask for a cup of water in the kitchen.

Ash was walking at fast pace at the corridor of the second floor. The old building felt like a haunted house. The kitchen was located at the first floor, so he was walking towards the stairs.

The moonlight shines through the windows. Tonight is a full moon with silver lights.

"...Huh?"

Ash stopped beside a window.

He felt a shadow passed by.

"That is..."

Every single corner of the garden can be seen through the corridor's windows. A girl can be seen walking under the moonlight. She was wearing a one-piece pajama. Ash recognized her.

"Is it... Lukka?"

Under the moonlight, the golden white here is emitting a mysterious light. Even her white ceramic liked skin was as if they were shining. Her pointy ears can be seen indistinctly poking out from her hair.

Lukka walked past the garden with her unsteady steps and through the old back door. After the back door is an endless piece of forest- Norg Forrest.

In a blink of an eye, Lukka disappear inside the forest.

"Hey... What was she thinking?"

Ash rushed down the stairs to the garden through the door specially used by the instructors. He rushed at a fast speed to the back door following the stone slabs. After he was mentally prepared, he walked to the forest.

But, just as he step into the Norg Forrest, he immediately took a step back.

"...Are you kidding me?"

Ash originally thought that he was used moving in the forest, but that is only limited to day time. This is the first time he went to the forest at night. Even the wet ground had a different smell. The nocturnal animals and bug

creeps the hell out of him. The lushly branches of the trees had the sky covered which also blocked the moonlight from piercing in. Also, there were sounds that was suspected to be the sounds of an owl.

Could it be that Lukka is just an imagination? Ash secretly hoped that this is true.

"Wait a minute..."

The Eckbalds were also known as the 'Forest Yōsei'. Actually, the self ruling territory of the Eckbald in the Knight Country is a wide forest called 'Eckbald forest'. Maybe to Lukka, every forest is like the garden back at her home.

After Ash mustered his courage, he moved forward while trying to feel around with his hands. The rough tree bark made him feel at ease, but every time he touches something slimy, he will immediately retract his hand. If there is a small animal that passed by his feet, he will immediately jumped.

"This is bad for my heart..."

Ash complained while walking and unconsciously thought about Gawain. All the other dragons were together in the dragon house of the training camp and only Gawain alone was resting in Norg Forest. It is because Norg Forest is a well known resting spot for dragons.

"I see. She went to look for Gawain..."

Ash who realized the truth continued to walk deeper into the forest.

After a while, his field of vision widens.

In front of him is an empty space. The moonlight shines directly from the sky. There is a in the empty space, and the water was reflecting the moonlight.

Gawain cuddled itself while lying beside the pond.

Its shining white fur was reflecting the moonlight.

Lukka was standing some distance away from Gawain. For a breeder, the amount of distance was weird.

Ash found out that Lukka's shoulders were shaking.

"Please, Gawain. I... can't live without you."

Lukka was calling after Gawain in a pitiful tone. Ash hid behind a tree a listen to her.

"The only Eckbald left in Ansarivan... is only me. The people in our home town have high hopes on me."

Gawain didn't answer. It is still with its same old self.

"Why must you reject me? I had always treated you as a family. When you became a maestro, I was very happy. But why...?"

Suddenly, some unexpected things happened.

"Grrrrrr..."

Gawain actually lifted its neck to scare Lukka. Lukka was afraid to move forward and fell to the ground on the spot.

Then she silently cried.

The sounds of the owls and the wings of the insects suddenly stopped which is most probably caused by Gawain's growl. In the silent night, the only sound that could be heard was Lukka who was crying.

-Crack!

Ash stepped on a dried branch. Damn- he regretted just as he found out about this. The sound was tremendously clear in the middle of the night.

"...?"

Lukka while wiping of her tears, turned back and looked at Ash's direction. It seems that there is no longer a point for him to be hiding. After Ash made up his mind, he walked towards Lukka.

"You are... From the student council?"

It seems that she didn't remember Ash's name. But since she also didn't remember Silvia's name, so this was expected. Ash stated his name while smiling.

"I'm ash."

"...Why are you here?"

"Sorry. I accidentally saw you running into the woods..."

After Ash explained, he looked at Gawain.

Gawain had frightened Lukka just now. That was a total rejection.

Lukka treated Gawain as her family which is undoubtedly the right thing to do... But Ash still didn't understand why Gawain was not bothered by it. The image of Lukka sobbing remains in Ash's mind...

In a few moments, it had turned into determination.

Ash as if he wanted to protect Lukka stood in front of Gawain.

"Say, Lukka. The previous experiment... Can I have it continued right now?"

Lukka gasped.

"This... has nothing to do with you."

"No, of course it has something to do with me."

Ash took a step closer to Gawain.

"This fellow had made you cry. This reason alone should be enough for me to interfere."

Part 2

Anya was looking at Ash's sudden challenge with Gawain from afar.

"That guy... What is he trying to do?"

Anya followed her plan which was working at the training campsite at the Allonnes Lakeside representing the student restaurant 'La Tene'. The work to prepare the food was more troublesome than she thought. It was already midnight when her job was done.

On her way back to her room for a rest from the kitchen, she accidentally saw Ash.

Anya was interested in Ash who sneaked into the Norg Forest.

After all, the reason why Anya worked hard to infiltrate 'La Tene' was to investigate Ash Blake. She thought that she had a better chance to come

into contact with Ash in the restricted area of the training camp compare to the wide area of the school grounds.

For Ash to act in the middle of the forest was out of Anya's expectation. He even challenged Gawain.

As for the matters concerning Gawain, Anya also heard something regarding it. It was said that it was resting in Norg forest because it was not feeling well.

Anya couldn't figure out the reason to bring a sick maestro here. The rest of the staff in charge of the foods also didn't receive any information regarding it- There was probably no reasons for the basic staffs to know about it.

Ash was protecting a girl at his back. To her surprise, she was an Eckbald. Her name should be Lukka Saarinen... Anya secretly thought. She had memorized all the names of the student who attended the training camp before hand.

From their conversations that she could not hear clearly, it seems that Lukka's and Gawain's relationship right now was bad. So Ash wanted to help her to solve this problem- This should be the whole picture for the incident.

Ash is probably thinking about riding on Gawain just like how he defeated the Necromanica.

"What is this about... Trying to play the hero in front of a cute girl."

Anya wonders why would she suddenly get mad for.

Part 3

The sharp claws tore the moonlight mercilessly.

Ash immediately jumped aside from the strong front paw. He will die in a horribly way if he face it directly.

"Stop...!"

Lukka shouted at the top of her voice but Gawain had no intention of stopping.

After its front paw missed, Gawain's weakness was exposed. Ash uses that opportunity to step on a tree branch to climb up a nearby tree. After he reached a thick branch, he looked downwards.

Gawain's entire back was in his view.

"Uoooooooo!"

Ash decided to jump down from the branch.

Gawain was not in his riding gear, but this is just what Ash wanted. When he had decided to ride on a dragon, the riding gear would only be in his way. Actually, Ash had heard before in class that 'All the great riders hated the riding gear'.

"You are now under my control!"

Ash successfully landed on Gawain's back. Ash was riding on Gawain's naked back like how as horse riding tribe riding on a horse without a saddle. His hands were holding on tightly on its neck. He swore not to let go of it even when Gawain tried to shake he off with its might.

"Grrrr..."

The swing that Ash experience nearly made him faint. He kept on telling himself never to let go.

Ash tried to tame Gawain with all his might and tried to persuade it to accept Lukka again.

But suddenly, Gawain gave an earth shattering roar.

"What's happening...?"

Ash felt fear. But, unless Ash let loose of his grip, Gawain had no chance of winning. As long as Ash remains on its back, Gawain can't use its breath attack, magic, teeth and claws.

If it is so, then what is the uneasiness he was felling.

Even when Ash had a total advantage of attacking from the back, but he felt uneasy deep inside as if- He was the one whose back was exposed to a shinigami. ^[13]

At that moment, there was a wave of magic that feels that it exploded out from Gawain's body.

"Uwaaa...!"

Ash was thrown into the air by an invincible wall.

His sight was spinning.

The bright moonlight came into his view for a moment.

Gawain's tail, like a whip, swung at Ash. Ash who was at midair had nowhere to run to.

"*Cough*...!"

It was a direct hit on Ash.

An unimaginable strong impact swept pass from his chest to his abdomen and he flew parallel with the ground. It was until he hit a tree, only then he fall to the ground slowly.

"*Coug*...*Cough*...!"

Ash coughed and he even coughed out blood. He probably had internal injuries. He was making some weird noise from his throat, which was probably caused by a broken bone that punctured his lungs.

To make it worst, the blood from his head flowed in to his left eye and blinded half of his view.

His body totally ignored his orders. Ash felt a cold chill. He didn't know how serious his injuries were. The thing that frightened his most is he can't even feel a single pain after such serious injuries. As if this body is not his.

Will my life end like this...? Ash had lost hope.

Eco face suddenly emerged in his mind.

An angry face. An angry face. An angry face... No matter what, it is always an angry face. Even so, I hope that she smile to me more, a pure, cheerful smile.

-Stop! What am I thinking about? Isn't this... No different from dying. How could eco smile at me...

With his back on the tree, Ash mustered all his remaining strength and glared at Gawain.

"Grrrr...."

Gawain was threatening Ash.

There was a thin layer of magic on its body. Ash had only found out that the thin layer of magic was the culprit that sent him flying.

"Reflecting type... defense magic!"

This is a high level magic that could only be activated by a maestro.

The effect of this magic was not to neutralize an attack but to reflect it. Even though Ash was only clinging on to Gawain, but it probably take Ash presence as an 'attack'. Could this had anything to do with his ability 'to ride on any dragons'?

"Just what kind of rascal is it..."

Under those conditions, Gawain could even use its defense magic to eliminate Ash. If it was another dragon, Ash will be on their back and have them tamed.

He already reached his limit.

Just before his loses consciousness, he felt that he heard Lukka calling after him.

Part 4

"This couldn't be true..."

Anya watched the whole breath taking event. An empty handed human versus a dragon- that was clearly a stupid move but Anya still think that there is hope deep inside her heart. Since Ash is the famous 'Silver Knight'.

But the result is clear in a blink of an eye.

"Just what kind of rascal is it..."

Ash who was hit by the dragon's tail pitifully, even though he still remained conscious after he landed, after this words, he remained motionless.

Maybe he was dead. Ash, under the moonlights could only be described with pitiful.

Not only that his head was bleeding nonstop, he even threw out blood. The seriousness of his internal injuries is even hard to determine.

Then, Lukka made a sad voice.

"Nooooo!"

Lukka who was pale in the face rushed to Ash. But Ash injuries were pretty much lethal and she panicked and didn't even know what to do.

At this moment, Anya was thinking about two things.

-If she left him as he is, he will die sooner or later. Serve him right for showing off and ruining Milgauss-sams's plan, this is his divine punishment.

-But I still owe him. If I don't save him... won't I lose my honour as a Tantalos? The fellow had saved me once without thinking about the consequences...

"Damn!"

She was lost for just a moment. Ash's life could not be guaranteed if it was left in the hand of the unreliable girl.

If she was to be unlucky, there will be questions about why would a staff in charge of the food was at the Norg Forest. Well, that will be a problem in the future but she just needs to make an excuse to cover up.

Anya rushed out from the trees and pushed Lukka aside.

Because she saw Lukka who was in a trauma tried to carry Ash's upper body. She didn't know that simply moving the body of an injured person will put their life in danger.

"What were you doing! I'll take care of the emergency treatment, go and look for help!"

"Y-Yes."

Even though Lukka was still troubled, she still knew the seriousness of the current situation and there was not a single moment to be wasted. She turned around and ran as if she was trying to blend into the darkness of the forest.

Part 5

"..."

When he regained consciousness, he was in a strange place.

The floors had black and white tiles that were made laid like a checker's board. There were many semi-completed objects hanging randomly on the walls. Human's body, beasts, armours, building and many more. On the ceiling was a grand palace-liked Chandelier which was a bright dragon crystal light.

There was an antique bed in the middle of the room and Ash was resting at there.

"I remember that..."

I lost to Gawain and was seriously injured. Even though he still remembered the incident, there were just only fragments of memories. Even when he was seriously injured, he still didn't feel any pain or even a wound on his body. His uniform which was originally covered in blood had become clean. This was weird.

"Are you awake?"

"Uwaa!"

After someone breathed in his ear, Ash immediately sat up in fear. A girl was sitting next to him beside the bed without him knowing.

"It has been some time since we saw each other face to face!"

The girl was beautiful. Her dress clearly highlighted her curves. Even when she had two horns on her head, they were still not very noticeable. Her hair was like Eco's shiny pink coloured hair.

"Are you... Navi?"

Ash had met her about a week before eco was born. No... 'Met' was not the right word to describe this situation, because he saw Navi in his dreams.

The Navi in his dreams had explored his body all over. Just by thinking about it, Ash blushed.

"Tee Hee..."

After Navi gave a devilish smile, she leaned forward. Ash could smell something nice, but when he found out that he was on a bed, he started to feel unease.

"Wait!"

Ash averted his eyes from Navi's huge breast and shouted.

"Navi, if you are here, then... I should be dreaming, right? No, there is no other explanation. Because I who was seriously injured don't even have a scratch on me right now!"

"You are not dreaming."

"I-If I'm not dreaming... then I'm in 'that world'?"

Navi laughed because she probably thinks that Ash's panicking looks is funny.

"This is just the Dragon Workshop! The place where dragons did their creations. I'm the one responsible for summoning you here."

"Even though I still don't really understand the current situation... At least I'm alive, no?"

"As long as your true body is safe."

"What do you mean?"

"The you now, is nothing but a spirit."

"Is that true..."

Ash lowered down his head and look at his own body.

"That's right. Your spirit had now left your body. If your body in the material world stops functioning, then you have nowhere to go."

"Y-You must be kidding! Let me return to my original state immediately!"

"Worry not. There is a reason for me to personally bring you here. This child has something that it wants to tell you."

Just like agreeing with Navi-

"Kyu."

A small animal popped out from her shoulder. Even though it had the size of a rat, it is still a dragon after taking a closer look.

"That dragon is?"

"It is Gawain. Although it is a maestro, it is still not yet mentally matured. Its looks is like this in here."

"T-This little guy is really Gawain...?"

Ash kept on examination the small animal in front of him. After being told by Navi, this dragon indeed has some similarity with Gawain.

"Fufu... If we were to fight right now, isn't it a sure win for me?"

"Kyun!"

Gawain gave out a frightened voice and hid behind Navi.

"...Tsk. Pretending to be the nice guy. So, what do you want to tell me? Before that, let me say that I was nearly killed by you."

After Ash asked, Gawain made a soft sound while standing on Navi's shoulder. It seems that it was trying to ask Navi to become the translator.

After Gawain finished speaking, Navi looked at Ash.

"Gawain said that its master was Lukka and Lukka alone. The reason why it reject you was because it doesn't want anyone apart from Lukka to ride on its back. Even when you were the 'The Boy Who Can Ride Any Dragon'."

"What are you talking about! You were obviously rejecting Lukka this whole time..."

"Kyuun!"

After Gawain made the angry sound, it told its reason for rejecting Lukka to Navi.

"...I see. Gawain was worried about Lukka and thus rejected her. According to Gawain, Lukka had fallen from its back about three months ago."

"Huh...? I have never heard of this."

Ash felt that he being was hit on the head. Three months ago was the time when Gawain started to reject Lukka.

"The Eckbald are highly self regarded race, they think that falling from the dragon was a disgrace. That's why Lukka had never told anyone about this."

Although Ash doesn't really know how she was feeling, if it is an Eckbald culture, then he could only accept it.

"Then, under what circumstances was she falling from?"

"Have you ever heard of the Dragon Riding Dance that was passed down by the Eckbald leaders?"

"No. This is my first time hearing about it."

"Just like what the words said, it was dancing on the dragon while riding. Although Lukka kept silent about this, she was destined to become the leader. So she must start to practice young. Not to mention, if the Dragon Riding Dance was a success, there will be an activation of various types of magic!"

"So you are saying that in the middle of the Dragon Riding Dance's practice... She fell?"

"That's right. Since she fell from Gawain, she was traumatized by Gawain. She stood far away from Gawain. Although she was lucky that she only had light injuries, she was now under the shadows of those memories..."

"Traumatized? I can't even see that happening."

"I think that she herself don't even know how much fear that was in her heart right now."

Ash unintentionally said some important thing.

"Then... Lukka stayed quite far away from Gawain in the Norg forest. She doesn't even try to pet it. Even at the seventh dragon house in the academy, she also maintained her distance."

So the unnatural distance was caused by Lukka's trauma...!

"If she tried to ride a dragon with those feelings, she will face serious injuries one day. If a Dragner was afraid of his pal, his future will be terrible and at worst he will die. It's because Gawain was worried about Lukka, so it remained stern in not letting Lukka ride on it."

"I see. So, Gawain, I can see that you are kind! But, why was your Astral cut off?"

"After the magic of wise dragon Albion was activated, the dragons were under special restrictions. One of them was- The more you go against a master's orders, the less astral you will receive. If this situation kept on, Gawain will die soon. Even when the Norg Forest supplied some Astral... but it is still hard to say that whether it can survive for more than five more days."

"-!"

Ash held his breath.

Only a mere five days. Ash had never thought that the situation was this critical.

"Gawain... would you rather sacrifice your life to protect Lukka?"

Ash spoke to Gawain seriously, but it was with its haughty look

Ash who replied with a wry smile suddenly felt something was off.

"...Huh?"

Ash quickly looked at his own body. His skin became transparent and he felt an irresistible force pulling his body.

The truth is, Ash legs were slowly lifted from the ground.

If this continues, then he will be floating in a few moments.

"Hey, hey... what is...?"

"It seems that you are leaving."

Navi calmly told the good news.

"Huh!"

Without knowing whether she was enjoying Ash's changes in expressions, Navi smiled.

"Even though I said that you are leaving, but it was different from what you were thinking. Your healing body is summoning your spirit. This is the law of nature."

Ash was relieved after hearing Navi's explanation.

"So, I'm safe?"

"That's it."

Navi stood up from beside the bed and walk towards Ash. There were some redness on her face. Were those illusions?

"I'll be waiting for your growth- 'Knight of Avalon'."

"Avalon? What does it mean?"

Navi gave a simple tap on his face as an answer. Although he was still at his spiritual state, he could still clearly feel the softness of a girl's palm.

"Fufu. You must learn to ride on me as soon as possible!"

"But my pal is Eco..."

"Eco and I were two surfaces on a coin. If you ride on her, it meant that you are also riding on me."

"What does that mean-?"



Ash was not allowed to further ask any more questions. It was because that Navi was kissing him passionately.

"Mguk...!"

Navi's watery lips had warped up Ash's lower lips. Before he could react, his upper lips were also sucked in by Navi. Both of their saliva had mixed together. When their mouths were wet, Navi forces her tongue into Ash's mouth.

"....Nn!"

Their slippery tongues were curled together.

...Until he was separated from Navi, Ash's thoughts was in a mess. After this intense experience, Ash only knew that there exists such a kiss.

Navi was with her rarely seen blushing looks and crimson red watery iris.

"I hoped that you can have such a kiss with Eco one day in the future."

"W-What are you talking about!"

"Fufu, let's us meet at another day."

At the same time when Navi was speaking with her watery lips, Ash was no longer able to resist the strong force and was swallowed by the darkness.

Part 6

"I'm at...?"

Ash had also woken up in a strange room this time. The only thing is, this place doesn't have the supernatural feel of the Dragon Workshop.

The smell of the antiseptic, white curtains and the medicine shelves. From the semi-drawn back curtains, Allonnes lakeside could be seen with thick white mist.

This should be the infirmary for the training camp.

Ash suddenly felt that he was touching something weird.

"...What's this?"

Ash curiously moved his right hand that was under the blanket. It felt slippery and soft and there is a hint of heat from it. It obviously felt like a living thing.

"Eeeehhhhhh!"

Ash was shocked and jumped on the spot. Although his body hurts, this is not the time to worry about that.

The moment he flipped over the blanket, he saw something unbelievable. Even after he immediately covered it back with the blanket, but the image he saw had been deeply carved into his mind.

"Why...is Lukka here?"

Ash was sweating a huge amount of sweat.

That's right, the thing under the blanket was no other than Lukka.

And, she was naked.

Because she slept in a way like a baby cuddling up, that's why at least her important parts were not seen... But the stimulation to his heart was still intense.

At the same time, Ash also found out that his clothes were removed totally. Although there were bandages on his chest, but there isn't a single piece of cloth left.

It is probably that the clothes will interfere with his treatment. So the reason why he was naked can still be explained. But, why would Lukka was sleeping on the same bed as him naked?"

Ash looked all over the infirmary again. From the looks of the sky, it should be in the morning right now. Not a sound could be heard from the lakeside.

The surrounding of the bed was placed with silver flasks that looked like lamp stands.

"This is...?"

There were water coloured crystals on top of each of the flasks. Ash found out that they are those expensive Bright Dragon Crystals with healing effect.

It was said that the training given in the training camp was strict and thus the amount of injured students were high. These should be the medical supplies prepared by the academy.

"I see... Thanks to the healing magic, I can continue to live on."

Ash nodded after being dawned on. His chest suddenly hurts.

"It hurts!"

Even when they have the healing magic, it seems that he won't be able to fully recover in a short time. Ash unintentionally placed his hand on his head and found out that he also had bandages on his head too.

From his injuries, his will be treated as a patient of some time.

Just when Ash sighed, Lukka unwittingly made a small noise.

"Nn..."

Her pointy ears tingled.

"Fuuwa!"

After a few moments, Lukka with a sleepy face slowly sat up. She generously showed her flat chest to Ash and daze at him with her sleepy eyes... Until the moment when she vision was focused, she suddenly hugged Ash.

"Luckily... you were all right...!"

"Uwaaa!"

Ash was thrown into panicked after being hugged by a lovely Yōsei girl. To make it worse, they were on the bed... Naked.

"It huuuurts!"

The moment Lukka hugged him tightly his entire chest hurts. Now is not to time for him to blush in the presence of a body of a naked Yōsei.

"S-Sorry..."

She let go of Ash gloomily.

"I-It's alright... Because I'm already healed. B-But could you please put on some clothes? Back to the topic... Why were you sleeping on the same bed with me?"

Ash averted his eyes away from the white tender naked body and simply came out with a question.

"..."

Lukka picked up her one-piece pajama from the floor. Ash made use of this time to cover his own naked body with the blanket.

Lukka who had put on her pajama was sitting on a chair beside the bed and only then she answered Ash question.

"It was because that your body's temperature was dropping... So I'm trying to warm you up.

"I-Is it so. Thank you very much."

After thanking, Ash remembered the incident that happened in the Dragon Workshop.

"That's right...! It may be hard to believe, but... I was at the Dragon Workshop!"

"Dragon Workshop?"

Lukka was surprised.

"That's it. The workshop where the dragons did their creations. I had a conversation there with Gawain."

"Huh...?"

Ash tried to explain to Lukka who was stunned.

Part 7

After Ash told her the truth, Lukka was in tears.

"Why... Gawain... Because of me... Just because to protect me... It rather sacrifice its life..."

When he saw Lukka's shaking shoulders when she was crying, Ash found out about something.

He had thought her as a girl without emotions. But that is not the truth, she is just only someone who can't express her emotions well. For she to be crying for Gawain is the only proof needed.

Thinking back carefully, it was the same during that time.

In the forest during the full moon, Lukka also cried. Ash choose to challenge Gawain was also because of sympathizing her-

"That's right. Gawain didn't allow you to ride on its back because it was worry about you. If the rider was to be afraid of its pal, then his life will be threatened..."

"It's... All because of me..."

"Summon your courage!"

Although he knew that this is a little cruel to her, he still shouted it. Because Navi had already notified him in the Dragon Workshop that Gawain's life has...

"Please calm down and hear me out. Gawain had only a few more days to live... according to the information that I had received from the Dragon Workshop, it can only live for a mere five more days."

Upon hearing, Lukka's was shaken.

"Before that... How many days had I been sleeping?"

After Ash had asked, Lukka answered by mumbling with her face looking pale.

"Today is... The sixth day."

"Huh?"

Ash was taken aback. This means that he had lost consciousness since the first night of the training camp until just now.

Although the training camp last for seven days, in reality, there is nothing wrong about taking the sixth day as the last. Because the seven day would only be returning to Ansarivan- just like that.

Also, the main event of the sixth day of the training camp would be cleaning the campsite and the closing ceremony would be held in the evening.

In another words, the Selective Training Camp is as good as ended.

But Ash didn't think that he had wasted his time here. The truth won't be revealed if he had not challenged Gawain.

The thing is, they must make sure of Gawain's safety. If Navi prediction was correct, Gawain will die any moment.

"Lukka! Look for Gawain immediately!"

"But... I can't leave you."

"I'm already alright. Right now, you must only think about Gawain!"

"...Understood."

Lukka rubbed off her tears and lifted her head.

Her gaze which was full of determination moved his heart.

After Ash had nodded to her, Lukka rushed out from the infirmary.

Navi had made a 'five days' death declaration.

But Ash had slept for five days...

Just when Ash was worried and held his fist up without being interfered by the pain-

"Ash!"

The owner of the voice who rushed into the room seems to be Eco. Her shiny hair sways when she rushed to the bed side.

It was probably that Ash was thinking too much that he just thought that Eco looked tired. Just maybe that she didn't slept well. Her red swollen eyes that will give you a heartbreak, is most probably because she cried a lot after the incident. Ash thought that he was going to have a heartbreak.

-Am I not able to escape from a punch or two from her...

Ash was prepared to be hit but surprisingly, Eco was only cuddling in front of the blanket.

"Baka, baka, baka! ^[14] I thought that... thought that you were going to die! What were you doing? You are owned by me, do you know that...!"

Eco hid her face in the blanket and started sobbing.

"Sorry, Eco."

Ash was petting Eco's head while bearing with the pain.

Thinking back carefully, the morning alarm had not yet rang. But Eco who usually was a lie in had rushed here early in the morning.

Although she refused to admit it, she is still eventually my pal... Ash was happy in the depth of his heart.

But the peaceful moment only lasted for a while.

"It is good to hear that you had regained consciousness."

The student council's member leaded by Rebecca rushed into the infirmary as a crowd.

"You moron!"

Silvia unhappily scolded.

"Thanks to you for being an idiot I can fully enjoy a twin sharing bed room on my own."

Max was insulting him while adjusting his spectacles on his nose.

"..."

Only Jessica remained troubled and moved her nose around Ash's blanket. Logically speaking, she should be the first person to hug Ash...

"...What are you doing?"

Upon asking, Jessica glared at him sharply.

"What is this about...! Why is the blanket full of Lukka-san's smell! Could it be that Ash-sama... likes those types of young girls?"

"No... It is not like that!"

Ash became nervous, since it was the truth that Lukka was sleeping with him which made him harder to give his explanation.

"What did you say!"

Eco was the first to react after hearing Jessica's words. It was as if she had transformed into another person. She sniffed the blanket with a cold expression and her eyes widen.

"It is true. This smell of herbal medicine... is from that Eckbald!"

"C-Calm down. I beg you to calm down first Eco.."

Ash was under great pressure. Although he wanted to escape from the window, he was now stark naked. Once he climbed out from the window, his naked body will be seen. He was now in the situation where he couldn't do what he wanted to.

"Hold on... Are you insane? Even I as your master was not allowed to enter and had to give up on visiting you. But you..."

"I-Is that so?"

Judging from what she had said, Lukka seems to enter the infirmary without permission.

"Ash, you rascal... There are so many to choose from and yet you choose a young junior... and lured her into your bed...? Yet, why do you not think about your health condition... and how we worry about you..."

Silvia's body was trembling.

"That's not it, I didn't lure anyone into my bed! Don't go on spurting nonsense!"

Too bad for him, Silvia don't have the intention to listen.

"An enemy of women must face the judgment of the hammer of death!"

Aahh, it seems that inevitably I'm going to face some pain... Ash felt like crying.

"H-Hold on! I'm still a patient, no?"

But Silvia had long ago clenched her fist tightly and was not at all bothered by Ash's begging.

Eco too also angrily lifted her right foot.

"This is Lautreamont's family's rules!"

"I'm gonna trample you!"

Part 8

"Huu... In the end, there isn't a single useful result that was obtained."

On her right hand was a bright dragon crystal powered torch and on her left's was a map of the Willingham Mausoleum. Angela sigh in disappointment.

Angela alone had gone through the journey of the exploration of the Willingham Mausoleum.

Although basically she came here as a campsite instructor, her original motive was still the Willingham Mausoleum. If not because of this, she will never agree to go to the Selective Training Camp full of the smell of sweat.

This was the sixth day she was investigating the Willingham Mausoleum. Since the first day she arrived at Allonnes Lakeside, she had immediately came here.

"Although the historical value is hard to predict... This is really a letdown."

Willingham Mausoleum was a grave that was built from a natural cave. The atmosphere was peaceful inside the Willingham Mausoleum which was due to its two thousand years of history.

Angela found quite a number of the dragon's fossil. She had originally thought that since this is a mausoleum, all the bodies will be buried nicely. But, there seems to be exception.

"...Huh?"

Just when Angela was marching towards the exit- She suddenly stood still.

In front of her was a strange fork road. Angela who was always calm had also turn pale.

"Could it be..."

Angela had inspect the map for one more time. This was a total different place compare to the intended place. It seems that she was lost because of her carelessness. Her deduction skills had dropped probably because of her lack of sleep.

No matter what, if I don't find a way out... I'm sure to meet the same fate as these dragons.

"Since I had been in love with the dragons for a long time, it is not a bad idea to be buried with them- Like hell I would!"

Angela while commenting on herself, was thinking about her troubles.

Basically, all the instructors and students knew she is at Willingham Mausoleum. If she returned late, they will send someone to search for her.

"I'm really... How could I be this unlucky!"

After putting down her luggage, Angela was resting with her back facing the rocks. She thinks that this is not a time for her to be running around in panic.

-Click.

In a few moments, she heard voices that could never be found in nature.

"...?"

At the same time, the wall behind Angela moved with making a 'Ssssssss' sound.

"T-This is?"

Angela immediately turned her head around. The place where I should had originally been rocks has a rectangular hole right now. She immediately shine the hole with her bright dragon crystal powered torch.

The hole is suspected to be a secret passage where the end couldn't even be seen.

"Could it be that... This mechanism was designed by the dragons.

Although the details were not clear, but what she can be sure of is the she accidentally triggered the trigger. But under the eyes of a commoner, this will just be like a normal natural cave...

After wiping of the dust on her spectacles, Angela shouted in joy.

"Who would know that such mechanisms exist. This is the century's biggest discover!"

Angela had forgotten that she was in a fix and lifted her bright dragon crystal powered torch while stepping into the secret passage.

Part 9

"This is just too good to be true...!"

Angela gave a cheer at the end of the secret passage.

There was a space there that has nothing to do with the mausoleum at all.

It is the size of a classroom in the academy. In this dug out space, bookshelves, tables, sofas and many furniture that can be seen.

There were carpets of different designs on the floor that gave out an elegant atmosphere.

After the torch was shone on the ceiling, Angela was stunned.

"That's..."

On the ceiling was an extravagance chandelier. But still, it seems logical since it has bright dragon crystal in it. If any grave robbers had found it, they will sure to move it away immediately.

Angela looked upwards and sang a chant. What she was singing was a basic level oracle, and the light immediately lightens up. A light far stronger than the torch had lit the room, thus Angela was able to explore every single corner.

"This carpet... without a doubt, it is a dragon's creation. This design was once very popular among the dragons about a thousand years ago. The rest of the furniture also has the dragons' style..."

The dragons who were at the same time artisans, have special taste for beauty. It is totally different from humans' design.

"What is the reason for the dragons to build this room...?"

Angela suddenly looked at the table.

There was a book that was an inch thick lying on the antique table. The book itself emits a serious feeling and made it seems like it was the owner of this room.

"Is it... to pass this book to the humans...?"

Angela approached the table and took the book. The over luxury looks gave a deep impression and the weight is extremely heavy, just like an encyclopedia.

"Could.... This be the 'Old Testament of the Stella Biblia'...?"

Angela's spectacles nearly slide off her nose.

The Chevron Kingdom and the Knight Country worships Rosa Maria and made it as the country's religion. The bible that records the teaching is usually called the Stella Biblia

The Stella Biblia records about the life of Saint Rosa Maria and her pal Eco. The believers learn the religion's teaching through the study of Rosa Maria and Eco's way of life. The reason why Ash named his pal 'Eco' is because of he was influenced by this Stella Biblia.

By the way, although it was said that the 'Stella Biblia' have two versions which are the 'Old Testament' and 'New Testament', but only the 'New Testament' is recognized by the headquarters for the Rosa Maria religion-Holy Espada Agency. Just not long ago, even the Old Testament was banned...

Angela happily flipped over the pages and read out a few sentences.

"...After the wise dragon Inbroke, two major bloodlines were formed. They are the Avalon's holy dragons' emperor's family and the Nehalennia's dark dragons' king's family. An endless war started from this two families-."

Angela was confused.

"T-This... did this happened during the ancient kingdom...? But it felt like a legend after reading..."

As if it was to help Angela to get rid of her trouble, a sound of another person was heard in the room.

"No, that is exactly the truth."

"-!"

Angela immediately hid the Old Testament of the Stella Biblia in between her arms and coldly glared at the intruder.

"A grave robber? No... You don't look like that kind of person."

"In the ancient times, when the Zono Ton Enlightenment had started in this Ark Strada Continent... The two families who inherited the wise dragon Inbroke's bloodline had started the bloody war.

A tall and skinny guy said this story.

The only thing that can be clearly seen was his silver mask. His expression was hard to be judged because that his eyes were covered. There were a few strands of red hairs mixing in his silvery hairs and he emits an evil aura.

Although his attire is of a mercenary, he gave out an extraordinary feel that made his cloths shown out.

An oat coloured skin girl was standing behind him silently. Her face looks handsome and cute but her eyes are with strong determination.

This small size girl was in her tribal wear. The metal glove in her left hand attracts attention and there is a high possibility that there are weapons in it.

"Both of you are...!"

Angela remembered.

The two suspicious people that Ash met in the forest about two months ago.

Angela had also gone through the reports that the student council sorted. According to it, the girl called the guy 'Milgauss-sama'.

"Why would both of you come to this ruins?"

Angela acted calm and asked them coolly.

On her right hand was a bright dragon crystal made ring. The red crystal signifies a fire element.

Her only winning chance will be the element of surprise...

But, Milgauss as if he had already knew what she was thinking said:

"You wanted to use the red flame dragon's breath as an attack, no?"

Angela gasped after her intention of using the oracle had been found out.

"I'll advice you for not doing that. Those puny flames that can only kill dragonflies, can hurt me? To dragons, those flames were nothing. Am I wrong, Ann?"



"What...!"

Angela's eyes widen. If that guy addressed her as 'Professor Cornwell', she wouldn't even be surprised. Since she is one of the top researchers for the dragons, it is normal that the people of the Zepharos Empire to recognized her.

But Milgauss addressed her as 'Ann'.

"Y-You... Could you be...!"

In the mean time, she felt something was off. Until the moment her feeling turned into reality, the 'Old Testament of the Stella Biblia' had fallen on to the ground.

Angela was not strange with Milgauss elegant voice.

Logically speaking, this is their first meeting but Angela recognized that voice.

Once she realized the truth, in her eyes, Milgauss standing posture and his hidden smile overlapped with 'the person' she recognized.

-I knew this guy! But he... Shouldn't even be living...

Angela's lips trembled while looking at Milgauss's face. How could this be... Angela couldn't help but kept on thinking about the face underneath the mask.

Part 10

It was twelve years before.

The young genius girl- Angela Cornwell who was thirteen that time had graduated from the University of Fontaine City and wanted to move overseas for further studies.

The location was the highest academy institution in Chevron Kingdom, University of Feachador. The education fees were fully covered by the Knight's royal family.

In the university's research lab, Angela met with the 'Ouji-sama'^[15]

That time should be around mid-summer- In the month of Leo.

That day was the University of Feachador's anniversary and the whole place was in crowded.

But only Angela alone was in the research lab doing research about the dragons. The lecturers and the students had gone out to enjoy the celebration.

But, someone appeared in front Angela who was in the middle of her research. That person is Julius.

Julius, Lautreamont made use of the Ansarivian's Dragon Riding Academy's summer break's opportunity to visit the Chevron Kingdom. Apart from vacation, he also bears the job of a diplomat.

"Haha. I thought I saw an angel! Are you the daughter of a lecturer or a sister of a student?"

"I-I myself am a student!"

According to Julius, he ran into the university to escape from those troublesome fans. In the end, he had gotten lost.

He had a handsome looks on him and yet he had a mischievous behavior.

Julius was only sixteen during that time and he was already a dragner.

Not only he was strong and smart, he was also a beautiful boy. The meeting she had with Julius had left a deep impression in her mind.

Julius smile had melted the lonely genius, Angela's heart-

Part 11

The feeling that Milgauss gave out is almost the same as Julius's. Even after he wore the mask and change his hair style, the way he speaks was still the same as the years before.

"H-How... Is this possible...!"

Angela was stunned.

Milgauss had given orders to the girl behind him coldly.

"Do it!"

The girl immediately retrieved the weapon in her left hand's metal glove- It is a leather whip that the mountains tribe loves to use.

"Haa!"

The whip bends according to the girls shout.

The whip swept past Angela with a 'sss' and she bend her knees to avoid. Her spectacles was hit and fell to the ground.

"Urgh..."

Even though the girl attack from the front, Angela's back was in pain. It seems that the whip easily avoided Angela's field of vision and attacked from the back.

"B-Both of you... What is the reason you... Come to Willingham Mausoleum-"

At the same time, Angela thought of the only possibility.

The culprit guilty of using the Necromancia to attack Ansarivan has yet to be found out.

But according to the time when Milgauss appeared at Ansarivan, it is reasonable to suspect him.

-The crucial material of creating the Necromancia is the bones of the dragons.

If Milgauss is the culprit for releasing the Necromancia, then shouldn't the Willingham Mausoleum become very dangerous? Since that were many bones buried underground...!

"I beg you...immediately ... leave this place-"

Angela with a trembling voice said towards the students who were at the lakeside preparing for the closing ceremony.

Needless to say, no one is able to receive her warning-

The girl knocked her with a hatchet and she lost conscious.

After making sure that Angela had fainted, Anya turned around and looked at Milgauss.

"About this woman... how are we gonna deal with her? She is still a good scholar; it is a pity for us to kill her..."

Milgauss replied coldly.

"I don't need anyone like her. Just end her lif- Guuk!"

The next moment, Milgauss looked strange. He was suddenly breathing heavily in pain and struggling while knelling down on the floor.

"Guu... This damn person! Such determination... Must he interfere with me-!"

Milgauss was muttering something weird.

"M-Milgauss-sama!"

Anya was nervous when she ran to Milgauss. This was the first time she saw Milgauss suffer to this extend. She had never heard before that Milgauss had any ailment disease...

"...Fear not, I'm absolutely alright."

Milgauss suddenly stood up which made the pain before look like a show. That feeling is like after demon being excoriated.

"Err... Milgauss-sama? Are you really alright? Anything wrong with your-"

"I'm very fine. The main point is-"

Milgauss was looking at the floor. Angela was still unconscious. Milgauss who addressed her as 'Ann'. The sound of it made it seems that he was calling a close friend or a lover...

Let's not bother about this woman. This is a Mausoleum for the dragons. The dead body of a human will only dirty this place.

"...Understood."

Until Anya replied even when she was still troubled by it, Milgauss had turned around facing another side.

"Milgauss-sama...?"

Anya was confused.

She doesn't understand what was happening around Milgauss.

Just before he turned strange, Milgauss wanted to kill Angela... But why did he change his mind?

Milgauss continue to give orders to Anya who was still letting her thought wonder.

"I'll activate the Necromancia in a few moments. Be prepared to head back to Ansarivan."

"Understood."

Although she was still worried about Milgauss body condition, Anya still answered immediately.

The time for the battle is about to begin.

Part 13

In the evening, Ash had nothing to do.

Under the assistance of the healing magic, his injuries were now better. Although his body still hurts, he can now walk on his own. Also, he was now wearing the patients' clothing. Anyway, it is embarrassing to remain naked.

Being said so, it is still the truth that he was badly injured.

Not only was his head, his entire body warped up into a mummy. Apart from going to the washroom, he was forbid from going outside.

Ash was staring at the scenery outside the window from quite some time.

"Is the closing ceremony starting...?"

At the lakeside where dusk is ending, the preparations for the campfire is still going on. In about an hour time, those logs that were staged up high will be burned.

Rebecca, Silvia, Jessica, Cosette, Max... These friends who had visited him a few times in the morning can hardly be seen during the sunset. This is also because they were busy preparing for the ceremony.

On the other hand, Lukka should meeting with Gawain in the Norg Forest.

Three hours ago, she purposely came back and told Ash that Gawain was still living. After knowing that Gawain was still breathing, Ash breathe a sigh of relieve.

The next thing to do is for Lukka to overcome her fear towards Gawain and the Astral that connects both of them may continue to flow.

"Zzz...Zzz..."

Eco was sleeping peacefully with her head on the bed. It is probably that she didn't have enough sleep when Ash was in comma.

"I'm entering, Ash!"

At this moment, Rebecca's voice and the door knock sounded at the same time. Before Ash replied, she had walked into the room.

Rebecca who was in her swimming wear had only a thin shirt covering her top which made her looked sexy.

Rebecca's swimming wear was red in colour. Since the shirt was unbuttoned, her deep cleavage, her thin white waist and the bikini lines can totally be seen.

"Rebecca-san...!"

Ash doesn't know where to look at.

"Do you feel better now?"

After looking at Eco with her gentle eyes, she looked at ash with a serious expression.

"I'm fine. I can even go to the toilet on my own!"

"Good. Back to the main point, I'm worried about something."

"What's it?"

"Angela-sensei had not yet returned from the ruins even after I had advice her that she must attend the closing ceremony..."

Ash was stunned. He had heard about Angela going to Willingham Mausoleum on the first evening of the training camp. In another words, Angela didn't knew that Ash was badly injure.

"According to her behavior, Angela must be too immersed in her exploration, no?"

Ash gave a wry smile but Rebecca was still troubled by it.

"It is alright if it is just like that... I'm worried that she had accidentally met with a grave robber."

-Bang!

At the same time, the door suddenly opened and Lukka entered from outside. She was sweating a lot which was probably because she ran and it cause her summer uniform to be wet.

It is rare to see her panicking when she always do things slowly.

'Nyu', Eco seems to be woken by the noise and made a sleepy sound and she slowly sat up and rubbed her eyes while looking around.

"What happened?"

After she was asked by Ash, Lukka answered slowly since she was breathing heavily:

"That kid... Gawain...!"

Part 14

Lukka told the whole story slowly.

-Gawain is dead?

Ash was thinking about the worst outcome but the truth was not like what he had expected.

Gawain seemed to hide itself when Lukka was not around.

Lukka had been together with Gawain for the entire morning.

As long as she overcomes her fear from falling from Gawain's back, Gawain will once again accept her. Thus their Astral will once again be connected and Gawain won't die.

Lukka was facing Gawain with only this thought- But not only that Gawain didn't accept Lukka, it had also had itself stay hidden.

Rebecca gently hugged Lukka who was crying.

"Gawain will never discard you. It probably felt that it is going to die and didn't want to let you see its dying looks, so..."

After hearing Rebecca's assumption, Ash also agreed with it.

"We will look for Gawain immediately! Didn't we already found out the reason why the astral couldn't connects? With a little more effort, we will be able to save Gawain! But it had already given up... How could be let this happen!"

Rebecca nodded in agreement.

"That's right, I also think so. We need not follow what Gawain wants. The problem is, where is it hiding right now..."

"T-That..."

Lukka provided information to Rebecca who was thinking deeply. She had rubbed off her tears and was with a determine looks.

"I think... It must have gone to Willing Mausoleum. That is a grave specially for young dragons... Gawain was still at its juvenile age."

Rebecca nodded.

"Hmm.. That's possible. Have you ever heard before the story of 'The dragon of Willingham'?"

"I had heard of it before. My mom always told me this story when I was younger."

Part 15

-It was a disaster that happened to a young dragon.

When Nuada was young, it managed to become a maestro. But it could not bear to see its young master suffering in her illness so it cut of its Astral. In the end, Nuada had become very weak.

But Nuada swore never to let its master see its dying moment so it left quietly. Later, although the girl recovered... Nuada had died in Willingham Mausoleum alone for some time.

When Ash heard this story from his mother when he was still a child, he cried.

Rebecca as if wanted to change the atmosphere in the room declared:

"I'll never let Gawain meet the same fate as Nuada. So, the closing ceremony will be canceled temporarily. I'll ask all the students to look for Gawain. It will be better if we could find Angela-sensei at the same time."

"No, please hold on."

Ash opposed against this proposal.

"Let the students enjoy the closing ceremony. I had been unconscious for these few days so I don't know what kind of training that they had been through... But everyone must have placed their best effort in it. The point for organizing the closing ceremony ain't it to congratulate those students who completed the training camp?"

"You are right, but what were you planning? Could it be..."

Ash smiled.

"That's right. I'll be responsible for the search. Rest assure, thank to the healing magic, I'm almost fully recovered."

This is actually a lie. Every time Ash moved, he felt pain in his organs and joints. Even so, he still wouldn't give up.

Upon hearing this, Eco who was silent the whole time became angry.

"Are you kidding! Or you must be an idiot! It is clearly that your body is still weak... And yet you want to look for that weak dragon!"

Ash places his hand on Eco's head to calm her down. Even though she was angry, it was still because that she cares and worries about Ash.

"Please forgive me, Eco. I couldn't just kept on watching silently. That feller is not a weak dragon."

"B-But..."

"If Eco you are worry about me, why don't you come with me?"

Eco immediately blush like a wildfire.

"W-What... m-me, I never worried about you!"

Ash was not bothered by Eco who kept on denying while shaking her hands but bow down in front of Rebecca.

"I beg you, Rebecca."

"Tsk... I don't think I can say no. Or else, the closing ceremony will we go on as usual but all the student council's members will help in the search.

"No, that won't work out. If Rebecca-san is absent, everyone will be suspicious about it. For such a ceremony, I hoped that every student can enjoy it to the fullest."

"But-"

Just when Rebecca wanted to explain, the infirmary room's door opened with a loud bang.

"If that's the case, I'll take over that job of yours. As a dragner, we must help those who were in trouble- This is the Lautreamont's family's rules!"

The person who said this was Silvia.

Part 16

The search party that had been decided consist of four members which were Ash, Silvia, Eco and Lukka.

Max and Jessica had agreed to go with them but was stopped by Rebecca. Because if too many of the student council's members were absent, suspicion will still arise among the students.

Lancelot was now giving four people a ride with Silvia in front holding the reins.

-Behind princess-sama...

Ash who was right behind Silvia was in fear.

Riding on the dragon while wearing the dragsuit designed for the palace and having her hair lifted upwards, Silvia's charm as a dragner and a princess emerged.

Although Ash had rode on Lancelot with Silvia during the Necromancia's attack, he was totally immersed in the battle that time. He didn't noticed Silvia's charm as the opposite sex.

"What are you doing? If you don't hold on tightly, you'll fall."

After being scolded by Silvia, ash made up his mind and stretched his arms. When his arms surrounded Silvia's waist, he was surprised that her waist is thin and fragile.

The third person was Eco. She held on to Ash's waist gently which probably is because that she was worrying about Ash's injuries.

"You must also hold on tightly."

When Ash turned his head around, Eco blushed.

"If I use my true strength... Then your body will be squashed!"

Ash gave a wry smile. Eco cared about Ash's condition in her own way which made his happy deep bottom.

The last person to ride the dragon was Lukka. She was not sitting on the saddle but the end of the tail.

"Hey, Lukka. Are you alright... Sitting like that?"

Silvia asked in surprised.

"It's alright."

Lukka answered lightly. It seems that she doesn't like the riding gears.

Lancelot who was carrying four people gracefully flew towards the sky.

Part 17

Walking from the traing camp's location to the Willingham Mausoleum will took about an hour. But the they arrive in an instant with dragon.

-Tsk... damn that Gawain... Playing hide and seek when it knew that it was dying? What is it trying to act cool for, I'll never allow it to follow Nuada's footsteps...!

Ash was thinking about Gawain while riding on Lancelot's back.

Not long later, a stretch of high grounds appeared.

"That should be the entrance to Willingham Mausoleum."

Silvia said while controlling the reins.

Just as Silvia had said, there was an entrance liked building at the middle of the hills. Although the surrounding were covered by a thin layer of mist, but there were bright dragon crystal powered lights at the altar liked entrance which shines the surrounding of the entrance.

Did Angela walk into that type of place alone...? Ash felt a cold chill just by thinking about this. It doesn't matter how you see it, this place is just not suitable for a lady to go in alone. It is reasonable for Rebecca to become worried, and they mustn't ignore the chances for her to be attacked by some grave robbers...

Just like sweeping away Ash's thought, Silvia shouted:

"Alright, get ready for landing!"

Lancelot gave a brave roar and started to land at high speed-

Part 18

Milgauss was standing at the top of the hill looking at the world below.

Under his eyes was the entrance to Willingham Mausoleum.

Looking at a place further ahead, there is the Norg Forest and Allonnes Lakeside. No to mention the building for the training camp-

The campfire had been lit at Allonnes Lakeside. The closing ceremony had officially begun.

On the ground was a coffin liked box. Migauss open the lid and took out a gigantic black sword.

This gigantic sword is the tool used to summon the Necromancia.

This is the great result of the Empires' proud mechanical engineering and the development of the dragons- The remanence of the Magic Techniques.
[16]

After Milgauss had returned to his country, he had improvised that device.

This gigantic sword that once looked like a piece of art work had now become more dangerous and mechanize.

The bright dragon crystals on the hilt had increased tremendously. There are a total of nine big crystals and more than twenty smaller ones. If it was on sale, he sure can earn a big amount of money. But in Milgauss eyes, those expensive crystals were but tools.

Milgauss easily lifted the gigantic sword and stabbed in on the ground. It is to send the magic into the inner part of the mausoleum.

The dragon jaw shaped sword made a deep heavy sound and sunk into the rocks.

"This looks like a tombstone."

Just when Milgauss was mumbling, a white shadow swept passed his eyes. A flying object that was thought to be a dragon was getting nearer at a fast pace.

Milgauss widen his eyes that were under the mask and looked at the evening sky. The shadow looked like Lancelot.

"Hmph... The princess, on patrol?"

Milgauss immediately hid behind the rocks. Even though he thought that the sky was dark enough to hide him from the eyes of the rider, but he must never underestimate the eyes of a dragon.

Luckily, Lancelot had slowly landed. It seems that they were going to land at the mausoleum's entrance. In a few moments, he lost sight of Lancelot.

"Let's begin."

Milgauss held the hilt of the gigantic sword and started to sing out the spell.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Show yourself the crystals of the Magic Techniques. The spirits of the young dragons now be revived."

In a moment time, the bright dragon crystal on the hilt gave out a bright light.

Part 19

"A-Angela-sensei... Came to this cave?"

Silvia who just alighted from Lancelot was shocked after she looked at Willingham's Mausoleum's entrance.

She didn't expect the mausoleum to be this scary.

It is okay if the sky was still bright but the sky that was darkening made it scarier.

The mist that surrounded the entrance made it look like the doors to hell. Although there were bright dragon crystals powered light around the entrance, they still doesn't ease the fear

"Gawain..."

Ash placed his hand on Lukka's head because of her worried looks.

"Rest assured. We will definitely find Gawain."

"Nnn..."

At the same time Lukka answered softly, a bolt struck in the evening sky and the roaring sounds of the thunders follows.

"Kyaa!"

The first person to scream was Silvia.

Ash made a wry smile. Although under Veronica's training, she had become stronger, she was still a coward.

But this funny situation was immediately interrupted by Eco.

"...Just like that time."

Eco was looking at the sky with her sharp eyes.

Lancelot was also in its alert posture and was growling with a 'Grrrrrr....'

In a blink of an eye, the dark clouds had almost filled the entire sky.

"Are you saying about the time when the Necromancia attacks...?"

Eco nodded while answering seriously.

"That's right. This bad feeling... I can be wrong about it!"

This time, the earth was shaking.

Ash nearly fell because of the continuous shaking. He already had a hard time to stay balanced.

"Kyaa!"

But the others girl had fell in his direction and dragged him together in the fall.

The girl who fell into his chest was Eco, Silvia was the one who wouldn't let go of his right arm and Lukka was clinging onto his right arm tightly. Under this type of situation, Ash couldn't even enjoy it one bit.

"Urgh-!"

His whole body was in pain. The rest had forgotten that Ash was a serious patient that was advised by the doctor to have sufficient amount of rest.

"S-Sorry! Are you alright?"

"S...orry!"

"It's all because of me..."

Silvia, Lukka and Eco immediately apologized.

"Don't worry... I'm alright."

Ash didn't want the others to worry about him and squeeze out a smile. But, his smile doesn't looked natural and he prayed that the dark sky can provide some cover for him.

After the earthquake stopped, Ash stood up.

"Fhuss..."

A sound as if it was laughing at Ash stubbornness was heard.

"-!"

One by one... A scary sight appeared from the dark corner of the mausoleum. They were not humans. Although they looked like dragons, they didn't have the holy feelings that the dragons emit.

"Necromancia!"

At the same time Eco warned the rest, something rushed out from the mausoleum.

Something that was bigger than a horse but was too small if it was compared to a dragon. Also, not only one but there was a bunch of them.

There were around five of them and each of them looked like a young Asa. Their bodies were black and had mad eyes, sharp teeth and a strong rotten smell.

"A young dragon sized.... Necromancia?"

Just when Ash was muttering, the leader of the Necromancias attacked. After its mouth opened, shining rays could be seen- Don! And a ball of flames came flying along the ground.

Lancelot made a scary roar and activated its defensive magic's shield. In a blink of an eye, the breath attack was nullified.

But this is not a time to thank Lancelot.

The group had extended their deep red coloured tentacles this time and they were getting nearer.

Silvia became the first victim.

"Kyaa!"

"Princess-sama!"

Although Ash immediately stretched his hand, he still missed. The slimy and sticky tentacles warped around Silvia's thin body and lifted her up into the sky.



"I-Insolent fools! How dare you touch the Royal Knight's family's Princess...!"

Too bad they were not someone that could be communicated with language.

Although Silvia struggled, but the more she struggle the harder the tentacles grip was. In the end, more than half of her dragsuit was torn off and the buttons had come loose.

"S-Stop! Stop this insolent behaviour...! Ahh...Stooooop!"

Silvia's scream could be heard all over.

"Eco, hand me the Ark quick!"

Eco angrily rejected Ash's request.

"No way! You are still a patient! The Ark will burden your body-"

"Is this a time to worry about those things! Princess-sama is in danger right now!"

"B-But..."

Compare to Eco who stood stilled, Lancelot had started to make his move.

To save its master, it had used the red flaming dragon breath.

-Don!

That was a true breath and was not comparable to the flames that was created by an Oracle. The unimaginable destruction force had turned the five Necromanica that was blocking the entrance into fire balls.

"Grrrrroooooorrrr!"

The five Necromancias who were on fire roared in agony and changed their targets to Ash and the rest. But Lancelot gave the final flaming breath and turned the Necromancia into ashes.

Although they were young dragons, there were no differences from the hardiness of a regular Necromancia. When the tentacles snapped, Silvia was caught by Lancelot when she was falling.

"Huff... Puff... Thank you, Lancelot."

Ash gave a sigh of relieve when he saw Silvia was safe. But he immediately heard Lukka screaming.

"That...!"

Lukka was standing by the cliff and was the direction to the lakeside. No, it was actually towards Norg Forest.

"Anything?"

"The forrest... Was polluted..."

Lukka as an Eckbald was sensitive to the change in the Forrest.

Ash looked towards the direction she was looking at and he was dumbstrucked.

-Dodododododo....

The forest was shaking and the feeling was like a group of Asia's running. The wild bird and the small animals were in shocked and their sound could be heard one after another

Judging from Lukka's 'Polluted', the Asia typed Necromancia could be on the move in the forest.

It seems that apart from the main door, there were other options that the Necromancias came out from.

"Ash, quickly look at the lakeside!"

Silvia was shouting on Lancelot's back while pointing to the lakeside.

"Could it be that... they were also Necromancia?"

Ash clenched his trembling fist. The black shapes were moving around the dark lake. Thank to the campfire at the lakeside, he can somehow make out their shadows.

Those must be the Hydra typed Necromancia. The total amount should be around twenty... No, it seems that it was around thirty. There were moving towards the campfire by the lakeside.

"They are also at the sky!"

This time it was Eco who was pointing at the sky. A group of Strada typed Necromancia while making some weird type of bird noises they were

circling around the sky. They seemed to ignore Ash and the rest and were heading towards the campsite...

"So I see... Their target is to attack the training camp!"

Ash angrily clenched his fists on both hands.

"Damn... Even when the students there were top students, those who had experience in dealing with the Necromancia were only Max and Rebecca. Are they alright-?"

"Ash, now is not the time to worry about the others. We can only trust the president to protect the training camp."

Silvia's calm voice dragged Ash back to reality.

She focused her sight onto the entrance of the mausoleum.

"That's...!"

Ash turned speechless.

The second batch of Asia typed Necromancia had rushed out and there were six of them this time.

"Grrrr..."

Lancelot with a growl and the breath attack exploded. Three of the leading Necromancia turned to ashes.

At this moment, the deep red coloured tentacles rush forward. Lancelot was not intimidated by them. It's hind legs held its body and it stood up and stomped its hammer like front legs. The sharp claws made a screeching sound and the tentacles were torn off like rubber bands.

That scene could only be described with dead bodies everywhere.

In only a few minutes, the second batch of Asia typed Necromancia was totally wiped out.

"S-Strong...!"

Lancelot's heroic fight amazed Ash and also Silvia's dragon controlling skill had improved significantly.

Silvia looked downwards at the rest of the gang with a skilful looks.

"Ride on Lancelot quickly! We are going into the mausoleum."

Part 20



「やっぱり……」

レベッカはすごいですわ」

ハイドラ
水竜組を率いるジェシカは、
夜空に舞い上がったクー・フリンの
威容を眺めつつ、つぶやいた。

"All of you here had gone through the five days Selective Training Camp! Your skills had improved significantly! You must have faith in yourself! Your skills are far better than what you had imagined!"

Under Rebecca's command, the students had ridden on their pals.

The Stradas were flying, the Asias were on their way to Norg Forest and the Hydras gathered at Allonnes Lake. Their strategy- An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

"... Rebecca is just too great."

Jessica who led the group of Hydras was muttering while looking at Cú Chulainn who was flying in the night sky.

Part 21

Rebecca was standing at the high end of Cú Chulainn's neck. She was already in her Ark. The enormous amount of magic was surrounding her entire body. Max was like acting as her second in command riding behind her on Arianrhod

Not long before, the student was happily enjoying the atmosphere around the closing ceremony's campfire.

But, the Necromancias who attacked from three directions which were land, water and air had changed the situation. Just like heaven and hell, the students were all in a panic but thanks to Rebecca, the tables had turned. Just a simple talk from Rebecca had given them the courage to fight.

Now, not only the students were not in any fear, they even trembled in excitement.

A huge amount of Necromancias were approaching.

There was only about a hundred meters in between them.

"Appear! The certain hit magic spear! Gáe Bolg!"

Rebecca naturally led the attack.

"Gáe Bolg!"

A bright light appeared after the spell had ended and a long spear appeared. Gáe Bolg's light pierce through the dark sky and explosion followed. One by one the Strada typed Necromancia fell to the ground.

"Attack!"

Rebecca ordered like a general.

"Oooooo!"

The students received the orders and attacked at the same time.

Part 22

Dim white lights were emitted from Lancelot's horn.

This was a basic magic for the dragons. Thus, Ash and the rest didn't have to rely on the bright dragon crystal torch while walking in the cave. Lancelot was walking forward silently and steadily in the cave. Its usual earth shaking footsteps was almost can't be felt.

So it had lessened the amount of burden that Ash's body was facing.

"Thank you, Princess-sama."

Silvia was surprised that Ash spoke behind her ears and her neck suddenly gave a jerk.

Because of her hair was tied up with a red ribbon, her white neck was exposed.

"Why are you acting with such ambiguity! I had done nothing that deserves your thanks!"

"You were worried about me and purposely asked Lancelot to slow down, right? So..."

"I-I had never thought that far! How can we move quickly in this narrow space!"

Ash gave a wry smile. Silvia was shy about it. For such a great dragon like Lancelot, to move quickly in a narrow space is but a child's play.

"-Careful!"

Silvia suddenly shouted.

"Ksharrrr!"

Three Strada types Necromancias attacked from the front. They looked more like bats than dragons.

Even though they were noble dragons in their lifetime, after they had become a Necromancia, they were no different from a disgusting flying animal.

Ash was in tensed, the next second-

"Grooooo....!"

Lancelot gave an angry roar. On the path where the brilliant dragon stepped passed, there were only ashes left behind.

"Such excellencies."

Upon hearing Ash's mummer, Silvia proudly lifted her chest.

"Hmph... During your recovering time, I had completed every single course in the Selective Training Camp. The days when I did battle stimulations with the president every day... I felt like crying when I said that.

What Silvia said felt like a sad tone hidden in it. She seemed to experience something terrible. Ash who had only experienced the first day's sea water bath was regretting. <!--It should be lake, but sea was written in the original text. Or I could be a pun because lake is Mizuumi and Sea is Umi.-->

But, the main reason Silvia became strong was mainly because of Princess Veronica's encouragement.

If Veronica hasn't visited Ansarivan last week, Silvia may not have turned over a new leaf.

"Back to the topic, why haven't we saw Angela-sensei yet?... I hoped she wasn't attack by the Necromancia."

Silvia sighed while looking at the mausoleum's map.

"I we also haven't found Gawain yet... Lukka, did you felt anything?"

"I can't... Because the Astral was not connected, my 'Seikoku' was not responding.

Sinca Lukka couldn't feel anything; they could only ransack the entire cave. Although it will be a tiresome job just by only imagining it, it was still an emergency.

"Another thing... Eco, there is something that I must tell you first hand."

Ash was looking at Eco through his shoulders.

"Anything?"

Eco who was clinging tightly at Ash's back lifted her head while feeling annoyed.

"The next time I asked you to hand me the Ark, please do so. The doubt at the moment could make you regret for your whole life."

"Wha...!"

Eco immediately explode. She kept on hitting Ash with her fist.

"I won't allow you to order me! Be careful or I'll trample you!"

Although the way she was hitting was like trying to be pout, the strength that she put in still made him suffer.

"I-It hurts! S-Stop hitting me!"

"Have you forgotten that you are still a patient! Even though those were temporally made mimic, it still burdens the body!"

Although she said it angrily, she was still concern about Ash. The way she thinks made Ash happy but the situation right now was an emergency and maybe the mastermind was still somewhere in this mausoleum.

"If not, could you create and Ark that doesn't cause much burden to the body?"

"What did you say?"

"Please, I believed that you are able to make an Ark that was suitable for my current situation."

"H-How.... Could you speak with such confidence!"

"Do you even need to ask? Because Eco is my excellent pal!"

"...!"

It was probably that she was moved by Ash, Eco was speechless and she blushed.

"Alright... B-But, during the time I'm in the dragon workshop, my body-"

Ash immediately knew what she was going to say.

Only a spirit can enter the dragon workshop and the true body will be left in this world.

When the spirit left the body, the empty shell will be defend less.

"Worry not, I'll protect your body."

Ash loosened his grip on Silvia's wrist and carefully switched places with Eco while trying not to fall off from Lancelot.

"Ash...?"

Eco was dumbstruck, and turned around to look at Ash.

Ash hugged Eco's wrist tightly.

"Wha-W-Wha...!"

Eco's shoulders twisted for one moment and her body had become log liked.

Her ears hidden in her hairs were red.

As if hot air is going to burst out anytime.

"I-If you didn't hold on to me tightly... You better watch out!"

After Eco said angrily, she laid her back on Ash's chest. He could smell the fragrance of her shampoo.

The next moment, Eco's body was like a puppet whose strings had snapped. She loses her strength and laid her head on Ash's right shoulder.

Ash had felt that her spirit had left her body.

"Our hopes are on you, Eco."

Ash murmured was like praying when he held on to Eco's weight.

"Huh?"

Silvia immediately stopped Lancelot when they arrived at a wide space.

It doesn't look like a place that has Necromancias.

Lancelot increased the light intensity of its horns to brighten the extra space.

Silvia was holding the reins with her right hand and was checking the map with her left.

"According to this map, this should be the centre of the mausoleum."

"Centre..."

Ash was holding on to Eco who was still unconscious tightly while looking around.

Silvia turned back and was secretly looking at Ash's face.

"..."

Just to make a new Ark for Ash, Eco had when to the dragon workshop. Ash kept on holding to her petite body tightly for some time.

Of course the reason Ash did so was to prevent Eco from falling off from Lancelot... But Silvia had been jumpy since and couldn't remain calm.

-Damn, what am I getting nervous about!

Silvia had reaffirmed herself and was looking around her surrounding carefully.

The size of the space was about the size of the academy's lecture hall. The ceiling was extremely high which was estimated to be about fifteen meters. There was a lot of winged crosses shape tombstones all over the ground.

All the tombstones had at least a height of five meters. The winged cross in the middle was far bigger than the rest. Its height almost touched the ceiling. Is there a powerful dragon who was buried there?

Too bad they still haven't found Angela and Gawain. Logically speaking, this empty space that was located in the middle of the entire mausoleum should be the place with the highest probability of finding them...

After Silvia gave a long sigh, Ash talked to her:

"Princess-sama, look at the ceiling."

"-Huh?"

Silvia's eyes widen. There was a volcano like hole in the middle of the ceiling and the night sky could be seen from within. Before they had entered the mausoleum, Eco had described this dark sky as a 'bad feeling'.

In a clear day, there should be moonlight that shines through the hole and create a dreamy situation.

"Grrrrr..."

Lancelot suddenly lifted its neck and gave a warning growl.

It was staring intensely at the hole above.

"What's it, Lancelot?"

Just when Silvia asked in surprised-

"We had met again, shounen." ^[17]

A guy's voice could be heard from above. A tall and thin person was standing at the edge of the hole.

"You're... Milgauss!"

Ash suddenly gasped could even be felt by Silvia.

Lancelot's horn had shone the scene above.

A lone guy in mask who was pale white in colour from the lights appeared. Silvia had also read the report book and immediately knew who he was.

"The ruffian who was called Milgauss! Who know that I can meet you here! I under the name of Lautreamont's Royal Knight's family will punish you in the name of god!"

Even while facing Silvia who was excited and indignant, Milgauss only replied with a laught.

"Hmph... Come on, even Veronica Lautreamont who was a top warrior was not even chosen to be a breeder... And yet a coward like you was chosen."

"What... Did you say?"

The way Milgauss speaks as if he knew a lot of her background in formations made Silvia felt uneasy.

"Are you alright, Princess-sama?"

Ash asked from behind.

"N-No... Nothing."

Silvia's mind was already in a mess even when she said so.

-What is this feeling? That guy called Milgauss... Even though this is the first time I met him, but he felt familiar. Why would I feel this way?

"Princess-sama? You... are crying?"

"Huh!?"

Ash's words woke her up.

She hadn't only found out that her tears already started falling.

"This... Why would I...?"

Even Silvia didn't know why she cried. But, if she gave Milgauss a glance... her heart will tighten.

Milgauss suddenly gave a smile.

A smile of a father who cares about his child, a peaceful and caring smile.

"You had grown, Sylvie."

"Wha-!"

Silvia felt a cold chill.

No matter how wide is the world, the only one who would call her in her pet name will only be her family members. Not only that, his gentle voice had caused her to recall her memories.

-Onii-sama! Julius onii-sama!

-Haha, Silvia, you pampered child.

-It's because... Onii-sama kept on talking to Glenn-dono and had forgotten about me!

Her childhood memories resurfaced in her mind.

How is this possible.

-'Dragon Slayer'.

Brother Julius who had committed such serious offence had been punished. Silvia was only five during that time.

In Lautreamont Knight Country, killing a dragon is the uttermost offence. Even if it was the prince of the Knight's royal family, he will still be punished. To make it worst, the dragon that Julius killed was his pal-Maestro Mordred.

Julius was already dead.

But... Milgauss had the same feel with Julius with every movement he made.

At this moment, Lancelot had again given a warning growl. As if it was trying to tell Silvia to put on her guard.

"Could it be...!"

Silvia had also felt that something was very wrong.

The ground was slightly shaking.

-Something was hidden in the ground!

"Kuku... Until what extend Lancelot can fight is something worth seeing. Or is it that- the guy over there will come out with some weird tactics?"

"Urgh..."

Ash kept silent.

Eco had remained silent and had yet to wake up. Silvia also couldn't predict the amount of time needed for Eco to create a new Ark.

Milgauss as if he saw through Ash's Achilles heel he gave a ridiculed expression.

"But, judging by Avalon's Princess behaviour... I believed that you wouldn't be able to come out with anything weird, no?"

"Avalon's Princess? Who would you also knew about?"

Ash was obviously shaken. Avalon- This word was suspected to origin from the ancient language. Silvia didn't know what it means. Anyway, what's about the princess?

-No, this is not a time to worry about those stuffs...

Silvia cleared her mind and focused on the current situation.

"Let me tell you, the dragons buried in this mausoleum were but young dragons! Even when they became Necromancias, they are still no match for my Lancelot!"

Silvia declared but Milgauss was not even bothered by it.

"Is it so? I had sent most of them to the training campsite. Those Necromancias that you had beaten were small fries. Also, those dragons buried here were Maestros in their past life."

As if to answer Milgauss talk, the ground split into two. The enormously loud sound was going round the cave and the tombstone followed by falling to the ground.

A huge object could be seen appearing from beneath.

"Roarrrrr...!"

A roar as if it had arisen from hell followed and their fight with Lancelot had started.

Strong wing, thick jaws and sharps horns.

Apart from their dark skin, they have the looks of a maestro.

"Kuku... Let me tell you! Its name is Nuada!"

Upon hearing, Silvia was stunned.

"A tragedy that every citizen of the Knight Country knew. You should had heard about it before, right? It is the dragon who loves its master and choosed to commit suicide-"

Part 24

"Have you gotten everything that I had said, Navi?"

Eco was having a conversation in the dragon workshop.

Navi as usual was wearing a wearing a evening dress while sting on an antique chair.

"The Ark that suit his current condition most...? Hehe, this is interesting."

Her matured version of Eco's look was as beautiful as usual. Perhaps it was because of this, Eco hated this woman very much. Even after saying so, she must focus on the main situation right now.

"I don't have much time. Can you replace my job for the restructuring process?"

"Ara. Why do you even need my help?"

Navi cheekily smile.

"Do I even have a choice! Even though I don't like it... You are still more knowledgeable than me... And I expect that you could come out with a better result compare to me.

"Your judgement is correct. We are like two faces on a coin. If you are the person who lived in the outer world, then I am the person who lived in the inner world. Of course I will help you."

"So you had agreed to help me?"

"As long as you promise me one thing."

"Promise? What do you want me to do?"

"You must promise me that one day, you will present an Ark to Ash Blake. It must not be a mimic but a top rated work that you had created."

"W-What are you talking about! How could I agree to this!"

"Ara. Have you already given up before you even challenged it?"

"B-Because... to present the Ark to him also means-"

Navi smiled.

"That's right, you are going to give him your everything."

"How could I-"

Eco was speechless. Her whole body was hot as if it was burning. To give her everything to Ash- just by thinking so, Eco was already very embarrassed about it.

"Are you willing to agree to my condition? Or not?"

"Urgh..."

Navi's provocation made her mad, but it takes time to do the review. Since there were more than a thousand of the Ark's blueprint left by her ancestral.

To do the review is to search the parts that suit Ash most.

She will be fine if it is just so, but there was this 'not to burden Ash's body' rule this time.

This is more difficult than the 'ice element' that Ask asked for during the church terrorist incident.

Strictly speaking, Eco didn't even know if there was even one Ark that doesn't burden the person wearing. So this problem had nothing to do with time and she can only rely on Navi's knowledge.

"...Alright. I promise."

After Eco had made her mental preparations, Navi smiled and the place suddenly was filled with soothing bright lights.

At the same time, there were many blueprints above Navi's head. Those were the blueprints that the dragons left behind.

Navi with her glossy and watery lips began to sing out the name of each part of the Ark-

"Almete, Gorjal, Peto, Espaldar, Brafoneras, Faldaje, Escarcelas, Bufetas, Hombreras, Brazales, Codales, Antebrazos, Manoplas, Quijotes, Guardas, Grebas, Escarpes, Espolón."

Eco was speechless.

A few thousands of those blueprints were spinning around on Navi's head. Those that was decided as unnecessary will disappear immediately and the leftovers are those that are important.

"W-What a fast searching speed..."

Eco was stunned. At this moment, all the blueprints that were flying around Navi's head disappeared.

The lights that filled the dragon workshop had also disappeared. Navi slowly stood up from the chair and walked towards Eco.

"W-What is it...?"

Navi was too beautiful to look at and she unconsciously took a step backwards. Navi cheekily smiled and placed her palm on Eco's head.

"This is...!"

Eco felt a cold chill. An enormous amount of information entered her brain from Navi's palm. But half way through the process, it was interrupted.

"W-Why?"

"...He was facing great danger."

Navi was looking at the three dimension projected screen in mid-air with a serious expression.

"Then be quick!"

"It seems that we must act quickly."

Navi again placed her palm on Eco's head and retransferred the information.

Part 25

"Is it really Nuada...!"

Ash shouted but he was immediately back to his calm self.

That right, the problem is not whether it is Nuada or not. The main point is, this Necromanica is a Maestro.

Also, the Necromanica revived from the ground was not only Nuada alone. The tombstone around had also fell to the ground one by one. The Asia typed Necromancia crawl out from the ground and there was a total of nine of them.

"Princess-sama. It is better that we retreat for the time being-"

After giving a glance at the passage behind, Ash calmly made the suggestion.

The escape path was not yet blocked by the enemies. To fight in this open space, the enemies will surely attack from all directions. It will be a tough battle even though Lancelot is strong.

But if they retreat to the narrow passage, the enemies will be force to come at them in a line. They may have a chance in winning like this.

"No!"

But Silvia stubbornly disagreed with retreating. She was so angry that the hands that were holding the reins were also trembling.

"Milgauss... Do you know what you had done! You... had stained Nuada's spirit that you never should!"

"P-Princess-sama...?"

Ash was at lost when he look at Silvia being angry.

Silvia had obviously believed what Milgauss had said. She probably had the experience of crying after hearing Nuada's story in her childhood.

At this moment, Lukka who had remained silent for the whole time had also cried.

"I also... will never forgive that person."

It is easy to understand how she felt. Because Gawain had followed Nuada's footsteps and had disappeared. She emotionally reacted probably because of this.

Ash was worried about the current situation.

"Young dragon Nuada! I swear in the name of the Lautreamont Royal Kingt's Family will defeat you! This is the only thing that I can do for you!"

Lancelot roared in a high pitch in replied to Silvia's sworn and immediately attacked Nuada. It stood on its hind legs and stacked with its front. Upon seaing, Nuada had also stood up and defended with its front legs.

The two ferocious dragon was started a battle of strengths.

Out of a sudden, Nuadu open its lower jaw and threw out some black gasses. It was almost a zero distant attack-

"Urgh...!"

Ash felt something was wrong and he hugged Eco tightly to protect her. He was angry at his useless self who couldn't do anything.

Lancelot also remained strong. Just before Nuada's breath attack exploded, it atcivated its defensive magic.

-The sound of explosions had shaken their ears.

The explotion was reflected back to Nuada who was near to the defensive magic and immediately explodes. Lancelot defensive magic was strong and Ash only felt a slight vibration.

"Great...!"

Right until now, Ash had opened his eyes. Half of Nuada's head had diaaspeared and its grey coloured brain could be seen. Even though it seems to be defeated, but it is still a Necromancia. The organs that were destroyed were immediately recovered and was back to its original looks.

Lancelot's heroic roar and Nuada's creepy scream had shaken the air around them.

Just when the two resumed to fighting with brute strength, there was a groan coming from Ash's back.

"Eek... Stop!"

"Lukka?"

An Asia typed Necromanica had dragged of Lukka who was sitting on Lancelot's tail. Its tentacles can be seen clinging to Lukka's body.

Lukka who was hanging upside down was struggling in pain and in tears.

"D-Don't... Touch anyplace weird...!"

Just like throwing sugar to ants, a large amount of Asia typed Necromancias was approaching Lukka. Their tentacles were tearing off Lukka's dragsuit.

The iron made gloves and knee guards was forcefully pulled off and fell to the ground. The leather belt was tore into pieces and even her skirt was torn off.

"Damn...!"

The moment Ash shouted, a tentacle attacked. Using the moment when Ash focused his thought on Lukka, the tentacle had surrounded Eco's waist. The tentacle was so strong that Ash loose to it in terms of strength.

"Eco...!"

Just like Lukka, Eco was hanging in mid-air. Eco who lost consciousness couldn't struggle like Lukka.

Silvia was having trouble just by controlling Lancelot. She didn't have the time to worry about the danger that Eco and Lukka were facing.

Ash clenched his teeth and jumped off from Lancelot's back. Even though he knew that this was like commuting suicide, he still can't control his sudden impulse.

"Let go of your dirty paws-!"

Ash picked up a stone and threw at the Asia typed Necromancia.

But throwing stones at dragon is like throwing stones at the moon. It easily bounce off from the black skin.

"Urgh..."

Too make it worst, Ash's body was in pain.

Even though he was not attacked, but he body was giving him warnings.

"R-Right now out of all times...!"

After Ash cursed, he knelled one side of his knees.

He was seating cold sweat.

His head, organs and joints were in tremendous pain. He felt like rolling and screams in pain. But, I musn't... I mustn't be defeated in a place like this-!

Ash who had sweat in his eyes saw Eco being dragged away from in front of him.

"Ecooooooo."

Ash screams in desperation.

At that moment, Eco who was nearly sucked into the Necromancia's body opened her eyes.

"W-What? What is this situation!"

After she saw Ash was on the ground in a ball like posture, Eco looked around at her surroundings.

"Eco! Give me the Ark!"

"Hmph! Without me... You are useless!"

Eco can be seen smiling happily-

And she only shouted the only word of that long spell:

"Espolón!"

Part 26

Milgauss who was standing at the top of the hill watching the fight had seen it all.

The cave was filled with white lights.

At that moment, the Holy Ark emerged in the middle of the lights and was on Ash's body. That Ark had red stripes and is a striking white coloured armour.

Ash is now an Ark-Dragner.

This armour was stronger that what Milgauss saw at Ansarivan. This increases his interest in it.

The place where it became stronger was the defense and not offense.

"Hmph. Using the old remains and combine them into an emergency armour? Wouldn't expect less from the Avalon's Princess..."

Anya's report had stated that Ash suffered serious injuries. This armour should be the best fit for him.

"Back to the topic..."

Milgauss was surprised that Eco completed the spell with only a word. Perhaps she had finished the rest in the dragon workshop.

Because Eco wanted to create the Ark at the same time she woke up so she had finished most of the spell before she comes back.

If that's not the case, Eco would be eaten by the Necromancia before she can even manage to finish naming all the part of the Ark. Milgauss wanted to praise this enemy.

"As I thought... Is it fate that we have to continue the fight from the past generations? Kuku, there is nothing bad about it... and also nothing good about it."

Milgauss laugh.

He was fully immersed in his laughter that came out from the depth of his throat.

Part 27

The moment he wore the Ark, Ash stood straight.

The unbearable pain had disappeared and it felt like he had grown wings.

The thickness of the Ark felt thicker than the first two Ark and it looked more ball like in overall. He felt safe just by wearing it.

But now is not the time to enjoy that safe feeling.

Ash locked on to the Necromancia in front and jumped towards it.

He fist punched the Necromancia that captured Eco with his Manoplas.

Next, he kicked the monster that captured Lukka with his Escarpes.

The massive amount of magic contained in the Ark exploded and the two dragons had disappeared.

"Ouch-!"

Ash groaned.

Even though the Ark had the effect of absorbing most of the repulsive force, it is still reckless for him to go for a hand to hand combat.

The pain in his bones made him struggle. It seems that the Ark also couldn't totally suppress his pain. But he mustn't back down in this situation.

"Kyaaaaa!"

The moment the tentacles disappeared, Eco and Lukka fell from mid-air.

Ash immediately slides towards the bottom of the two. He had managed to secure both of them right before they landed on the ground- The entire process spans for less than two seconds.

"Are both of you alright?"

Ash helped them to stand up. Lukka instantly nodded her head in reply but Eco on the other hand was angry.

"What the hell is wrong with you! That Ark only strengthens the 'defends'! It is not for you to use it for punching and kicking!"

"S-Sorry..."

Ash initially was intimidated by Eco and apologized. But he without delay changed his mind:

"Now is not the time to worry about those things, no? Of course I'm trying to save you!"

But the current situation doesn't allow Ash to explain anymore than that.

"...Here it comes."

Ash was dragged back into reality by Lukka's warning and immediately put up a fighting posture.

The fight between Lancelot and Nuada was still in a stalemate. On the other hand, the remaining seven Asia typed Necromancias was trying to attack the trio. The stench of the rotting smell had suddenly become stronger.

Eco angrily ordered.

"This Ark was not made so you can fool around with it! Use the Ark Weapon immediately!"

"Understood!"

Ash focused his mind and attention to the Ark.

The information regarding the Ark Weapon that comes together with the Ark was sent into his mind.

After receiving that information, Ash smiled.

"Appear... the invincible magic shield!"

There was a flash followed together with the spell.

The space in front of Ash started to bend and there was a crack. The unknown Ark Weapon appeared slowly from the crack.

"Aegis!" ^[18]

The same time Ash shouted its name, Aegis appeared.

Aegis's outer looks looked like a dragon's head. There were all together five units that made up this shield. All of the five units were flying around under Ash's command. When they had surrounded the Asia typed Necromancias, the shield projected colourful lights.

These units were not normal shields. They all have the characteristic of a magic cannon.

The continuous lights that were attacking the Asia typed Necromancias were like spider webs.

Not only that, there were some weird changes on the Necromancia that was hit by the lights directly. They had become stones in a short time.

Aegis was not releasing the usual attacking typed magic.

That is a high level magic that turn living things into stone upon coming into contact with the light. Even though it is one of the dangerous magic listed in the list of banded spells by the Knight Country, but now is not the time to act like a good model citizen.

Just in a few seconds time, all seven Necromancias had turned into stones. Ash breathe a sigh relieve and withdrew Aegis's magic.

"Thank you, Eco."

"N-Nothing... And I'm not even doing this for you."

Eco turned her face to aside by her face was definitely blushing. Ash gave a wry smile but now is still not the time to lower down their guards.

Anyway, Silvia was still controlling Lancelot who was still fighting with Nuada. Under the condition where both of their front legs were locked but their opponents, both of the uses magic or even use their tail attack... Both of them were like in a wrestling match.

"Princess-sama! I'll be there to help you in a short moment!"

Ash who was prepared to help had met a blank wall.

"I don't need any help! Go and capture Milgauss! Lancelot and I will calm down Nuada's spirit."

Silvia's talk made Ash speechless.

Silvia was really angry. Even so, she still haven't lost her cool. She had sworn to defeat Nuada in the name of the Royal Knight's Family- perhaps she truly thought that this is her mission.

"Roger that! Princess-sama I'll leave it in your hands!"

After Ash shouted back to Silvia, he started running.

Right in front of him was Nuada's tombstone. The tip of the slanting winged cross was pointing at the hole of the ceiling. Milgauss was still looking at the side of the hole.

Ash jumped towards the sky along the side of the winged cross and stepped on the middle of it and gave a leap. He landed on the wings and continued to jumped again at the end of the wing. With the aid of the Ark, Ash accomplished a jump that a normal human can't do.

He body passed through the hole of the ceiling.

The musty air of the inner part of the cave had suddenly become fresh and cool.

The air is very cold and it doesn't seem like summer.

At the top of the hills were many stubs of bare rocks.

Although the surroundings were dark, luckily the Ark produces dim lights. Also, since he had been in the dark cave for a long time, his eyes had already gotten used to the darkness.

"Milgauss!"

Ash started a fight with Milgauss. Although Eco was mad about it, he still chose to use the hand to hand combat which is the easiest.

He remembered the time when he met Milgauss for the first time in the forest.

Ash didn't even have the ability to fight back during that time. Because before he managed to land a hit on Milgauss, Ash was ambushed by Milgauss underling and was nearly killed by that girl.

But the situation right now is different. Ash was protected by Eco's magic and he had decided to KO his opponent in one hit.

But-

With only his left hand, Milgauss had blocked Ash's right punch that he focused all his strength in.

"How is this possible...?"

"Hmph. Is the strength on an Ark-Dragner just like this?"

"Urgh..."

He can't move his right hand at all. It is similar to being clenched by a plier.

"This proved that you are just a fake."

Milgauss tone was as cold as iron.

There was a gigantic sword in his right hand.

"Wha...!"

Ash widen his eyes in disbelieve. It is as if the sword was made out of darkness. The big bright dragon crystal on the hilt of the sword proved that it was definitely not an ordinary sword.

"A fake like you had no right to touch me."

-A flash from the black sword.

There is a sudden black gust. Ash whose right hand is now handicapped had nowhere to run to. He could only use the Manoplas on his left hand to protect himself.

As if a big hammer was hitting his head, the impact pass through his body in a short moment. The impact was so strong that even the Ark couldn't endure.

"*Cough...*"

"Where is your big talk just now?"

Milgauss let go of Ash's right hand and held the gigantic sword with both hands.

Then the sword was lifted and down it goes.

"Guak!"

The metal sunk into his abdomen. In a short moment, Ash felt that his waist was going to be chopped into two. The Ark made a click sound. Even the Ark was groaning...

"-Aegis!"

Obviously, Milgauss was not an opponent for him to fight with in hand to hand combat. So, Ash resummoned Aegis. The five untis split out immediately and attacked Milgauss. As long as a light managed to hit him, he will then turn into a stone.

"Too slow!"

But Milgauss with an extraordinary nimblest avoided the light rays. Then he swigged the black sword at a lightning speed.

Those units were destroyed one by one after being attacked by a tornado like slash, and they disappeared.

"What is he actually made of...!"

After Ash groaned, he was on his knees. The amount of magic collected in the Ark has a limit and Ash felt that the armour was slowly disappearing.

After Milgauss dealt with the five units, his target had shifted to Ash once again. He gave Ash a kick without any delay. Even with the protection of the Ark, the impact was still transmitted into his abdomen.

"*-Cough!*"

Ash was out of breathe and was kicked around like a puppet. In the end, he landed with his back facing the rocks.

Blood started flowing out from his mouth...

"Ku..."

Ash spit out the saliva that had blood in it and hid behind the rock immediately. The size of the rock is just enough to keep him hidden.

"Hmph. Are you trying to hide to drag time?"

Ash remained silent. He was sitting at the back of the rock waiting for a good moment. His body was in a mess and he probably had only one more chance...

-Ssss, ssss...

Milgauss was not playing any tricks and marched towards Ash.

"Anything wrong right there? Can't you use Aegis?"

Milgauss was probably laughing his ass off right now. Ash answered while thinking of his disgusting face:

"Too bad, I'm out of magic..."

"Luck is not on your side today, shounen."

Followed by a shout, there was an impact on the rock behind Ash.

Part 28

"Shoo. Shoo...!"

With the aid of the Ark, Ash easily jumped out through the ceiling's hole but Eco wasn't that lucky. She left Lancelot who was in a brutal fight with Nuada and climbed the huge winged cross.

"W-Wait for me...!"

Looking downwards, she saw Lukka was trying her best to cling to the winged cross.

"Tsk... Just don't blame me if you fall."

Eco stepped on the wing of the winged cross without being bothered by Lukka. If she had not been careful, she will definitely falls head down. Her current height was about ten meters. Although she was frightened by it, she still needs to move forward.

Even though she felt guilty towards Lukka, Eco still wanted to rush to Ash's side as soon as possible.

The moment Eco saw the guy called Milgauss, she felt disgusted.

She remembered the nightmare that made her wet her bed.

Eco was attacked by a scary dragon in her dream.

It has nine eyes, numerous tentacles and it is far scarier than a Necromancia...

The unbelievable thing was, the moment she saw Milgauss, the first thing that came into her mind was that dragon. It will be alright if she was just worrying too much... But just in case if Eco's instinct was right, Milgauss is a dangerous being. Eco couldn't guarantee that the Ark has enough power to go against him.

Ash's body condition worried her.

Ash was a heavily injured patient in the beginning. Logically speaking, he should rest for a month, but...

But, even after she arrived at the location, apart from making the Ark (the mimic), there was nothing else she could do. It will not be surprising that she will be a burden.

Even so, Eco still couldn't calm down her worrisome emotions and choosed to climb the winged cross.

After some effort, Eco finally arrived at the ceiling's hole took a look outside in the night sky.

"-Huh...?"

Eco had seen it all in that short moment.

Milgauss was holding a gigantic sword up high that looked as if it had merged together with the night sky and was going split open a rock.

Eco's instinct told her that Ash was hiding behind the rock.

In an direct combat, Ash was definitely out of his league and he was going to be sliced open together with the rock by Milgauss...!

"Ash!"

Eco called his name in desperation.

Part 29

Milgauss who thought that he had a sure win split open the rock in front of him- This blow will definitely crush the rock and Ash into pieces.

The rock was scattered into tiny fragments.

The thick dust was all over and was blocking his sight.

After the explosion like power cool down-

"What...?"

Milgauss remain in his posture of him finishing the blow.

After all the dust falls, what was infront of Milgauss was not Ash's body.

A unit in mid-air was pinning on to Milgauss.

A light was released from the front of the unit.

"Urgh...!"

Milgauss immediately lifted his left hand to block the light and then he slashed the unit with his sword. Although Aegis was reduced to light particles and disappeared, its effect was still ongoing. Milgauss who felt something was wrong looked at his own body and his left arm started to turn into stone.

"-Milgauss!"

Ash suddenly came down from the sky.

He had used the stone fragments as a screen and used a unit as a stepping stone to jump-

There was no longer an Ark on Ash. He probably uses all his magic to summon the two units.

...Wait, he still has his Manoplas on his right hand!

"What an eyesore!"

Milgauss swung the black sword with only one hand but he had only manage to destroy the unit that Ash was stepping on.

"Uwoooooo!"

Ash who was experiencing a free fall uses the momentum and swung his a punch with the Manoplas.

Milgauss immediately put up a defensive posture with the huge sword above his head but he still couldn't avoid the powerful impact.

"Urgh...!"

Milgauss was knocked off together with his sword.

Part 30

"Huff, puff... How is this punch?"

At the same time Ash landed, his Manoplas disappeared. Next, he felt a terrible pain as if his flesh was being slice off.

But now is not the time for his to show his weak side. Even though Milgauss fell down hard on the ground, he still remains his consciousness. Ash could only try to bear with his pain.

"Hehe... weren't you out of magic?"

Milgauss was using the gigantic sword as a walking stick to support himself as he slowly stood up. His left arm was hanging freely and lifelessly. It had been converted into a stone.

"I didn't say that I couldn't summon Aegis again. It's you who had been fooled, you had lost."

"Hmph. I thought you were an idiot who only had strength, so it seems that you can actually do some scheming? But this can only be called as a trick, it is still far off to be called a scheme.

After Milgauss made a haughty smile, he remembered something and pulled off his left arm and threw it to Ash.

"Wha...!"

Ash was staring at the left arm that landed on the ground.

"...Prostatic arm?"

"That's right. This is a creation of the Empire's proud mechanical engineering."

Ash was clenching his teeth. Ash is not only just a normal human without the protection of the Ark, he is also a seriously injured patient.

On the opposite, Milgauss had only lost a prostatic arm.

He was in a fix.

But- Just when Ash lost hope, there was a heroic voice coming from behind him.

"Listen carefully, Milgauss! I Silvia Lautreamont and Lancelot and together defeated young dragon Nuada's spirit!"

Ash turned around to have a look and cheered happily.

"Princess-sama! Lancelot!"

Nudua's head was in Lancelot's mouth when it landed in between Ash and Milgauss. The only word that could describe its condition was 'terrible'. Its white skin had become dirty and full of blood.

Although it was injured, Lancelot's blue eyes still looked as if they were full of spirits. Apart from Silvia who was riding on its back, Eco and Lukka were also there.

Lancelot gave a menacing growl and lowered down its neck and place Nuada's head in front of Milgauss.

As if it wants Milgauss to apologize

After Nuada's head stared at Milgauss for a short moment, it turned into ashes. In a blink of an eye, they were blown away by the night breeze-

After Silvia saw the ashes being blown away by the winds, she focused her attention back to Milgauss.

"...Princess-sama?"

Ash knew something was wrong with her.

In this situation, winning was already in the grasp of their hand. No matter how strong is Milgauss, he will still face trouble when he is going against Silvia.

Logically speaking, Silvia should also know about this but she continued to stand still without any reasons.

"Hmph... It seems that I must change my opinion towards the Fourth Princess. I'll retreat for today."

Milgauss placed the gigantic sword on his shoulder and slowly retreat.

"But the training campsite had already become a battle field. Just how many of them could survive... I would love to know it."

After Milgauss provoked them, he jumped into the night.

Surprisingly, he jumped from the cliff.

Even so, from the previous battle experience with Milgauss, Ash knew that he is not just some average ordinary guy. He should have survived the fall.

And he will be back...

Just like she had calculated the time for Milgauss to withdraw, Silvia spoke:

"Thank a lot, Lancelot. You may take your rest."

Lancelot immediately bent its knees and lay down. After it closes its eyes, it started to snore gently.

Silvia climbed down from its back first then she helped Eco and Lukka to alight Lancelot.

"Is Lancelot alright?"

Ash worriedly looked at the sleeping Lancelot.

"Rest assured, it doesn't have any vital injuries. It is just that... It had run out of magic. We only had the strength left to frighten Milgauss just now.

Ash now only knew why would Silvia let him escape. Because she don't even have the ability left to order him around. Back to the topic, if it was not

because of Silvia's and Lancelot's intimidation, Ash would have die under the Milgauss sword.

"And also, maybe... That guy..."

Silvia's troubled looks made Ash curious.

"Princess-sama?"

"N-Nothing, just pretend that I didn't say anything!"

Silvia panicky wave Ash off which in turns worried him further. At this instant, Lukka said something.

"The training campsite is..."

Eco was also looking at the direction of the campsite dumbstruck.

"How come...!"

By following their sight, Ash also turned speechless.

Just like Milgauss declared, the training campsite had become a battle field. The Necromancias attack had yet to be stopped.

There were numerous sounds of explosions and the lights from the magic were flashing here and there. Although the campsite was safe, the dragon house beside was on fire and there were black smokes all over the night sky.

Is everyone still alright? What about Rebecca? Max? And the rest? The instructors? The staffs for the training campsite? The girls who were in charge of the foods?

"Damn... Even when we wanted to help them..."

Ash felt that he was filled with desperation.

Apart from looking from afar at the hills... We couldn't even do a thing-

As if to cheer him up, Lukka pulled Ash's selves.

"I had a favor... To ask from you."

As if she had made up her mind, Lukka was staring at Ash. Ash was troubled by it because her face was too close to his.

"W-What is it?"

Her Yōsei eyes were shining and clear even under the night sky.

Her eyes that were full of determination caused Ash to stare back at her.

"Please... Come with me."

"Why?"

"For Gawain and me... You had wagered your life for us. Just to let us feel the same like the old times... If you are together with me... I think I could muster up some courage."

"Could it be that you know a way to save everyone?"

Lukka extended her hand towards Ash.

"I want to save them... No, I must save them."

Ash held Lukka's palm as if he was going to be sucked in by her determination from her eyes.

Her body temperature was transmitted to Ash through her leaf size like tiny palm.

"Alright. I believe in you."

After Ash answered with a steady tone, Lukka smiled in embarrassment.

Part 31

Under the silent eyes of both Silvia and Eco, Ash and Lukka move towards the edge of the cliff. That is also the place where Milgauss jumped down from.

Shoo...Shoo... The sounds of the winds pass through the darkness down below.

"Lukka...? What do you intend to do?"

Ash took a peek at Lukka's face whilst being frightened.

"Jump down... From here."

"J-Jump down-?"

Lukka didn't answer. She just hurdle herself into Ash's arms. There was an immediate sound of disagreement coming from Silvia and Eco from behind, but now is not the time to worry about it.

Lukka place her hands around Ash and hugged him as if she was hurting him on purpose. Although his organs were screaming in pain, Ash still managed to bear with it. If he groaned in pain at this moment, he will disappoint Lukka.

Even so, what was Lukka actually thinking...?

"We are going to jump."

When her voice reaches Ash, he was already in mid-air.

Just like what it was written, Lukka jumped down from the cliff.

And she was falling together with Ash-

The feeling of floating in mid-air only lasted for a second. Then, both of them were falling in a straight line.

"Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Whilst listening to the sound of the winds buzzing beside the ear, Ash was swallowed by the dark abyss. He thought that he heard Eco's and Silvia's screams for a short moment from far above, but the voice was lost after a while.

Part 32

They kept on falling.

Ash and Lukka were hugging each other when they fall towards the bottom of the cliff.

Thinking back carefully, the same thing happened when Eco was born. It seems that he was fated for such things...

Suddenly, he seemed to hear Lukka's voice hidden by the sound of the winds.

She seemed to be speaking to herself while huddling to Ash.

"Sorry...Gawain. I'll never again be afraid of you."

Aah...So that's it.

Ash finally understands Lukka's determination. Just like Gawain overprotecting Lukka and caused itself to have its Astral cut off... This time, Lukka wagered her own life.

After Lukka hugged Ash tighter, she shouted loudly:

"Please accept me once more, Gawain!"

It is hard to believe that such a loud voice would come from such a petite girl. Her voice was so strong that it looked like it pierce through the night.

There was a glaring light coming from Lukka suddenly.

The golden rays started to surround her body.

"Could this be... Astral?"

Ash who was still falling was stunned. He couldn't believe that he could see Astral with mortal eyes.

"Quick... Suck them in, Gawain! Taken my Astral... no, absorb me! You are my... Pal!"

The shout that she put her full effort in was echoing in the night.

Just before the voice disappeared-

There was an explosion around the hills near Willing Mausoleum and Gawain appeared from there while releasing a magic that brighten the night sky.

Ash was attracted to Gawain's gesture who had totally recovered.

After Gawain gave a roar that a young dragon couldn't possible make, it carefully catches Lukka and Ash with its back.

Part 33

"I had... Another request."

"I'll do anything, as long as it is in my range of ability."

Ash replied loudly. Their priority is to save the rest and Ash is willing to suffer any kinds of pains for it. Lukka worriedly stated her request in a low voice.

"...I'm going to challenge the Dragon Riding Dance. So... I hoped that you can hold on to me tightly."

"No problem!"

Ash recalled what Navi had said.

That is the Eckbald's traditional dance.

Because of Lukka's failure in her practice, the dance had caused her to have problem while facing Gawain.

Ash was unable to imagine what kind of a dance is that, but he was mentally prepared.

Now he could only place his hopes on Lukka's Dragon Riding Dance.

Ash hugged Lukka's waist tightly with both of his hands.

"Is this alright?"

"...Tighter."

"How about this?"

"Tighter."

"Urgh...What about this?"

Lukka answered by nodding.

Suddenly, there was a clear metallic sound coming from Lukka's leg. Her dragsuit was modified with a standard spurs. Gawain who received the signal roared with its heads up and rushed into the sky.

Part 34

The Ark had disappeared after Rebecca annihilate a group of Strada typed Necromancia with her magic spear, Gáe Bolg.

Rebecca reluctantly sighed. Cú Chulainn magic was almost used up and can no longer maintain its flight. It landed beside the lake.

"Should we end it here-"

The training campsite that acts as a temporary battle headquarters was still fine, but the dragon house nearby was swallowed by the great fire.

Both parties were still fighting by the lakeside.

Every dragon had already used up their magic, just like Cú Chulainn. So, there are many of them fighting using their body.

Anyway, their opponents were Necromancias and they have extraordinary endurance. Every time they received a fatal blow, they still continue to stand up.

This batch of students had been performing well in this fight which made them worthy to become the selected participants of this training camp.

But, there was no end to the amount of enemies. Everyone was wondering how many dragons had been buried there. And the reinforcement for the enemy kept on arriving.

Apart from that, Rebecca could no longer summon the power of an Ark-Dragner had also lowered down the students fighting moral.

"We don't have any more choices left. Should we just give up on the training campsite... And retreat?"

Rebecca made the bitter desistion. Everyone is disappointed for them to lose such a great traditional facility. The training campsite at Allonnes Lakeside is also a building with long history.

But she must priorities the students' lives. If they give up right now, they still have the chance to retreat in one piece. Once the retreating path had been block off by the Necromancias... Rebecca felt a cold chill just by thinking about it.

Currently, three students were heavily injured, fifteen were slightly injured and seven dragons were also injured. Although they had not yet suffered any casualties, still if they continued to hold on... The situation will become irreversible.

Rebecca made up her mind. She took a deep breath and was going to order the rest to retreat.

Just at this moment, there was some flying object that shot passed the sky.

From the bright silver track left behind by its excessive magic- That must be a Maestro.

"Is it Lancelot?"

No. The tracks left behind by its dance were obviously not done by any ordinary Maestro. It was as if it took the sky as a drawing space and spreaded its wings boldly while flying...

"Could that be... Gawain?"

Part 35

-What type of dragon riding is this? This is the first time in my whole life I saw Dragner control his dragon using this method...!

Under the effect of the strong centrifugal force, Ash nearly lost his consciousness.

He felt as if he was suffering from anemia. He was already facing trouble just to held on to Lukka.

If he had been careless for one moment, he would most probably be facing the watery grave right now.

The Eckbald's Dragon Riding Dance couldn't be reason with humans' knowledge.

A sharp corner turn.

A strong centrifugal force that could even shook the brain.

The buzzing sounds of the winds beside his ears.

Although he also faced groups of Strada typed Necromancia along his way, Gawain were not bothered by them. Just like a lion who was not bothered by ants, it continued to fly.

The Strada typed Necromancia couldn't keep on with Gawain's speed and had scattered just like being blow off by a storm.

-Is this really a... Dance?

If this is also considered as a type of dance, how do we classify the flying method in the academy? This is totally at a different level! Obviously, there is too much difference...!

-Lukka is undoubtable a genius!

Ash finally know the reason why Lukka would still be selected to the training camp even after she had been absent for three months.

At the same time, he had personally experience the feeling of the terribleness of falling off during the Dragon Riding Dance... Just by thinking, Ash entire body stiffened. It was a miracle for Lukka to fall off from Gawain and her body remains intact.

Also, Lukka was not flying blindly.

Ash found out that Gawain was drawing a magic circle in the night sky with its tracks.

Not long later, the huge magic circle had been completed.

Thinking back, Navi had mentioned before.

-Once the Dragon riding dance had been completed, many effects of magic will be activated.

Ash's eyes widen.

"Isn't this a 'Seikoku'!"

That's right, the image that Lukka and Gawain completed together is a 'Seikoku'.

There was the head of a dragon in the middle of a circle and it looked unique. The diameter should be more than a hundred meters.

The moment the magic circle was completed, Lukka shouted:

"Dragon Riding Dance, the First Dance- The Amrita of purification. ^[19]

The magic circle was glowing with a glaring light.

Part 36



All the students who were busy fighting by the lakeside were shocked by the sudden lights.

The huge magic circle- 'Seikoku' was hanging at a corner of the night sky.

"So you had succeeded... Lukka."

Rebecca smiled in relieved.

After being shone by the strong lights, the tough Necromancis had returned back to ashes one by one.

On the other hand, the students had recovered their energy as if they had been treated with healing magic.

Rebecca also felt that her body had become lighter and the gloom in her heart had gone. It is as if her desperation from before was just an illusion.

She now felt that she can still continue the battle.

Upon seeing at the Necromancias at the lakeside had been defeated, the student cheered in unison. Even the injured patients who were taking refuge at the training campsite ran to the lakeside to cheer.

Looking at Gawain who was flying energetically in the night sky, Rebecca chuckled.

"Since the ancient times, the Eckbalds who were draggers were called 'Elfn Dancer'. The Lukka right now best fit the descriptions-"

"Elfn Dancer ~A.S.B 1365.6~"is closed.

Epilogue

Part 1

The tragedy had come to an end.

Even though the enemies had been attacking aggressively, none of the students were killed which can be said as lucky.

Angela who was lost was found in the mausoleum in one piece.

The knights that the palace sent had immediately seal the room that Angela found to prevent anyone from entering.

They would probably ask the archaeologies to take charge of the investigations in the near future.

Part 2

The students that were scheduled to return to Ansarivan still remain at Allonnes Lakeside.

Most of the students were helping to rebuild the dragon house that was burned down.

The rebuilding project was going on smoothly under Rebecca's supervision. The dragons were also full of spirits when they helped in the rebuilding.

The only thing is, Ash was confined in the infirmary.

"It huuuuuurts...!"

Ash injuries had worsened because he joined Lukka in doing the Dragon Riding Dance. The whole time when he was riding on Gawain, he suffered from the strong centrifugal force. It is normal for his body to experience this degree of pain because he was seriously injured beforehand.

It had already been the third day since Lukka started to take care of him.

The way she took care of him could only be describe with the word 'overly pampered'.

Not only she boil the herbs that she had collected from Norg Forest for Ash, she also feed him, help him change and wipe off his sweat.

Ash was happy that Lukka was pampering him- But for her to be with him for the whole time had also caused him trouble. She had stayed with him for the whole time...

Part 3

"I will take my rest first, Ash. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to wake me up."

On two o'clock of the third day, Lukka had felt sleepy. This is the time for her afternoon nap. She wore her one-piece pajamas stark naked which made her look a little sexy. It seems that the afternoon nap is an important routine in the Eckbalds's daily life. Ash had gotten used to it after three days.

"Anyway... She addressed me in my own name!"

Lukka had only addressed Gawain and Rebecca with their name in the past. This change made Ash feel embarrassed.

Looking at her face, Ash suddenly remembered something important.

"That's right, I remembered that Lukka..."

The incident when he went to the Merk house had appeared in his mind.

"Could it be that... She is not wearing anything right now?"

Just when Ash let his thoughts wander, the door suddenly opened.

Eco was the person who opened the door. Different from the rest of the student council members, Eco who has nothing to do will come and visit him once in a while.

But it is only on name sake she was visiting him. In reality, it had always become an argument.

"Wait a moment, why would both of you sleep together!"

Today was no exception. Once she saw Lukka sleeping, Eco became mad.

"Could you please calm down? Lukka must have been thinking that she was responsible for my injuries so she took care of me. What were you thinking about?"

"Even so, you don't have to sleep together!"

"What!... Aren't you also the same for taking my bed?"

After Ash grumbled, Eco squinted her eyes.

"What did you say?"

"N-Nothing... I said nothing at all."

But Ash and Eco was too noisy which cause Lukka to turn her back over.

"Fuwaa..."

Lukka still looking sleepy sat up.

"You... I'll never forgive you! Do you know that feller over there is my meat slave!"

Eco jumped onto the bed and showed her teeth to Lukka while trying to catch her.

But Lukka is a girl who grew up in the forest. Even though she was still sleepy, she is still agile. She easily pushed Eco's hand to one side and moved to her back.

"What...!"

At the same time Eco shouted in surprised, Lukka showed her rows of white teeth.

With a 'Hmu', she bit Eco's horn gently.

"Haa...!"

Eco had lost her strength. This is one of her weakness next to the ansal herb. If not because that he knew Lukka, he will never know about this weakness.

"Err, am I able to learn.... This technique?"

"...This is one of the techniques used to discipline the dragon. Even though it was created by the Eckbalds, everyone is still able to learn it."

"Is it. Huhu... Eco."

Ash was smiling evilly. Seriously speaking, he was kept on his bed for three days and was bored with it.

"Hold on! You... Want to...!"

Eco was in fear.

"S-Stop! I'll never allow it! If you even dare to try it... I'll trample you flat!"

"Don't be afraid. I just want to have a try. Anyway, don't you also want to know the result? Since you are my pal!"

"Wha....What are you joking about!"

Eco wanted to run off but she couldn't.

Because Lukka had carried her by her waist and pass her to Ash. That action is just like an owner handing his dogs or cats to another person.

"You... You had obviously only see me as a dragon!"

"That's because you have horns!"

"What did you say- Uhmm!"

Eco's anger had ended right here.

Because Ash had bit her round horn just like what Lukka did.

Part 4



-Kuk.

"Ahh!"

Eco's whole body trembled the moment Ash bit her horn.

The felling was different from Lukka when she was doing it. It is totally at a different league.

The moment ash teeth touched her horn, Eco felt that her whole body was electrify. Her body was jerking nonstop and was unable to think straight.

"E-Even when it had said that... You musn't bite my horns...!"

It's hot. Her checks were hot. Her body was also hot. There's a particular felling that was coming up from her lower tummy.

Why my body will feel so hot... When it is Ash?

"P-Please... Stop, I beg you... If you keep on with it...!"

Being hugged by Ash while her horn was bitten.

Eco can only continue to beg and struggle with a heavy breath.

"The Knight of ECO III" is closed.

ごきげんよう、コハダです。

星刻の竜騎士も早いものでもう二巻目。

いつしか季節も夏になっています。

夏といえはそう、水着ですな！ 今回は

たくさんのキャラに水着を着せてあげて、コハダ的に

大満足です♪ そして、しべツカの鎧のデザインも

カツコよく且つ色っぽく！ を目指してみましたがいかがでしたでしょうか。

それでは、ここまでお付き合いただきありがとうございます！



References

1. ↑ The original meaning is something like a decided fate cause by her pervious actions.
2. ↑ The original word also bears the meaning of the intention of staying in bed and not want to wake up.
3. ↑ はい as in Yes
4. ↑ this sentence is originally short and made is seems like it is a dead body
5. ↑ 正座 Seiza, a formal way of sitting.
6. ↑ This is the original text, a direct translation.
7. ↑ 解散Kaisan it means to disband the meeting in a commanding tone.
8. ↑ After Saint's Birth
9. ↑ President
10. ↑ Idiot.
11. ↑ You will know what it is if you read one piece. But haki is 覇気 which literally means an aura that someone strong emits that will let their enemies or the people around them feel under tension or fear.
12. ↑ Types of fish. 鮎 ayu is also called sweet fish, 鮒 funa is called crucain carp.
13. ↑ God of death.
14. ↑ Moron
15. ↑ Prince
16. ↑ 魔導工学 Magic based mechanics
17. ↑ Shounen-Teenage boy.
18. ↑ A shield from the Greek mythology.
19. ↑ From Sanskrit, means immortality

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Credits

Story : Shiki Mizuchi
Illustrator : Kohada Shimesaba
Translator : TJYYEO

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